

Lebanese premier pledges free elections

PARIS (R) — Visiting Prime Minister Riad Solh has pledged that next month's general elections in his country would be free and said President François Mitterrand had assured him of France's support. "The (Lebanese) government will never intervene in the elections. They will be free and totally democratic," said Mr. Solh after meeting Mr. Mitterrand. There had been uncertainty as to whether the meeting would take place at all after Mr. Mitterrand's office initially said none was planned, citing the president's "busy schedule" during what is one of the quietest periods in French government life. The possibility of a snub had been an indication of French displeasure over Beirut's decision to hold the first parliamentary elections for 20 years in August before the withdrawal of Syrian troops. The meeting lasted 20 minutes. Mr. Solh told reporters afterwards he thanked the French leader for supporting Lebanon "and he (Mr. Mitterrand) promised this support would last, continue and grow." French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who attended the meeting, said he hoped conditions would produce "a significant result which will avoid exacerbating tensions between Lebanon."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Councils formed in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (J.T.) — A higher health council has been formed in the occupied territories to look after the health affairs of the Palestinians living there. Al Quds Press quoted Radio Israel as saying Friday. Al Quds Press added that more of such councils were being formed to take charge of the educational, agricultural, labour and social affairs of the Palestinians. Al Quds Press also quoted Radio Israel as saying that internal security forces will be formed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during September and October 1992, and that 20,000 to 30,000 policemen will be trained in Jordan for a three-month period. The radio was quoted as saying that all recommendations on the formation of new bodies were relayed to the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to endorse them. These bodies will serve a transitional period of one year, as a prelude to the first phase of self-rule, it said. A meeting will be held next week in East Jerusalem to put the final touches on these plans, which were rejected by several Palestinian factions. However, no official comment has so far been made by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

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King, Queen visiting Europe

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday began a several-day private visit to Europe. They were seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef and senior Royal Court officials.

Clifford trial to begin Oct. 26

WASHINGTON (AP) — Clark M. Clifford, former defence secretary and confidante of four U.S. presidents, and his law partner, Robert Ahman, pleaded innocent Friday to federal criminal charges in a banking scandal. Their trial was set for Oct. 26. "I plead not guilty, Your Honour," Mr. Clifford, 85 and ailing, said at his and Mr. Ahman's arraignment in U.S. district court where they face charges of conspiring to defraud the Federal Reserve System, America's general bank, in a probe of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The unusually quick trial date was at the request of Mr. Clifford, who says he wants a swift opportunity to clear his name. Mr. Ahman said later outside the U.S. courthouse that he was pleased. A three-count indictment returned Wednesday alleges that Mr. Clifford and Mr. Ahman enriched themselves through loans and other agreement with BCCI. (See page 7)

Policeman shot and killed in Algiers

PARIS (R) — A policeman died after being shot in the Algerian capital Algiers late on Thursday, the APS news agency reported. The 26-year-old man, attacked in the Bab Al Oued district while on his way to work, took three bullets in the chest and later died in hospital, a source close to the police told the Algerian state agency. One of the four attackers was arrested after nearly being lynched by an angry crowd, the source added. More than 80 members of the security forces have been killed since a state of emergency was imposed in Algeria in early February, when authorities cancelled parliamentary elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. (see page 2)

France convicts 6 of anti-Islam statements

GRENOBLE (R) — Six local rightist politicians were fined 5,000 francs (\$1,000) each by a court in the French Alpine city of Grenoble on Thursday for inciting racial hatred in an election leaflet saying Islam was a danger to French society. They were also ordered to pay 20,000 francs in damages to three anti-racist groups which brought the leaflet to the attention of the public prosecutor. The six were members of the centre-right Union of Independent Liberals, which contested regional elections in March.

Sudanese ruler reshuffles cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has sacked two federal ministers in a minor cabinet reshuffle, according to an official decree published Thursday. The decree, issued by head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir, said Local Government Minister Nafise Ambo and Labour Minister Father Kinga George, both southerners, had lost their jobs. Their replacements were named as Colonel Gajwak Deng, the governor of the Upper Nile state, who takes over Mr. Ambo's job, and Major-General Dominic Kassiano, the only southerner in the ruling Revolution Command Council, who becomes labour minister. No reasons were given for the changes and no replacement was named as governor of the Upper Nile state. In the decree, Bashir appointed two southern Sudanese to the foreign and finance ministries. Gabriel Rorij was named state minister at the Foreign Affairs Ministry and Sapana Jambo was appointed a state minister.

World Zionist Organisation backs Rabin's approach

TEL AVIV (AP) — The World Zionist Organisation (WZO) will refocus its settlement activities to reflect the policies of the new government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, WZO officials said Friday.

The group's governing congress on Thursday passed a resolution to direct WZO's settlement budget to sparsely populated areas important for Israel's "security." Since his election in June, Mr. Rabin has pledged to reduce "political" settlement in the occupied territories, but to support moving Jews to strategic areas, including the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley.

In recent days, his government has cancelled plans for thousands of new housing units approved by the previous government in the West Bank and Gaza and has moved to curtail subsidies for Jewish settlers in the occupied territories.

WZO officials said Friday that the organisation, which has helped found agricultural communities in the occupied territories, will shift its work almost exclusively to the Golan and Jordan Valley.

The congress is made up of

representatives from Zionist groups in Israel and around the world.

Yehiel Leket, director of WZO's settlement, told the Associated Press Friday the organisation would spend its budget along what Mr. Rabin has defined as the country's "confrontation lines."

The WZO resolution signalled agreement with the policies of Israel's new government, Mr. Leket said.

WZO's annual funding from the Israel government is \$40 million to \$45 million. In past years, half of the budget went to the Golan and Jordan Valley, with the remainder to projects in other areas of the West Bank and in Gaza.

The congress also called on the Jewish Agency to merge its settlement department with that of WZO.

This would be a first step towards having the government of Israel take over complete responsibility for settlements, said Yehuda Weinrand, a spokesman for the Jewish Agency.

The Jewish Agency is responsible for bringing Jews to Israel and has assisted in settlement inside pre-1967 Israel.

Israel, Lebanon invited to Aug. 24 bilateral talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Ambassador William H. Harrop on Friday invited Israel to participate in the next round of Middle East peace talks starting Aug. 24 in Washington.

Israeli officials, who insisted on anonymity, said the invitation was delivered to the foreign ministry.

Israel's response will be decided at Sunday's cabinet meeting and is expected to be positive, according to the officials.

U.S. embassy officials declined to confirm or deny the report, saying any information had to come from State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler in Washington.

Earlier Friday, Victor Pousavalouk, an aide to the Russian foreign minister for Middle East and North African affairs, invited Lebanon to the talks.

Mr. Pousavalouk said he extended the invitation to Secretary-General of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry Subeil Shammah.

"As co-sponsors of the peace talks, I relayed an invitation to Lebanon to take part in the forthcoming round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington on Aug. 24," Mr. Pousavalouk told reporters after meeting Mr. Shammah.

Delegates from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation met in Damascus last week and decided to take part in the forthcoming

round of Middle East peace talks, sponsored jointly by the United States and Russia.

The talks will be the sixth in a series that began last October in Madrid, Spain, and continued with four rounds in Washington.

Israel had pushed for the next round to be held closer to the region, and all sides had agreed on Rome. But Italy apparently was unprepared to host negotiations before September, while U.S. Secretary of State James Baker wanted them held sooner.

The upcoming round will be the first since the June election of the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israelis raid Lebanon

Against the backdrop of preparations for the talks, Israeli warplanes attacked positions of resistance forces in South Lebanon twice in the space of a few hours on Thursday, wounding six people, security sources said.

They said the jets fired rockets on Hizbollah targets in the village of Yater East of the ancient city of Tyre, 75 kilometres south of Beirut.

One of the rockets hit a two-storey house levelling it and wounding two civilians, the sources added. Another rocket destroyed a petrol station starting a big fire.

Several houses and cars were

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11 Palestinians refuse Israeli expulsion deal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Eleven Palestinians stated for expulsion are challenging Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, to prove he was serious about peace by cancelling their expulsion orders.

The men rejected a deal with the state prosecutor to go into three-year voluntary exile and demanded to be freed, their spokesman told a news conference Thursday.

"We want this to be a sticky issue, we want to embarrass Rabin," nationalist leader Riad Al Malki said.

The former right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir ordered the 11 expelled seven months ago after demands by Jewish settlers for a crackdown against Palestinian attacks in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The expulsion orders were condemned internationally.

The 11 have rejected a compromise to prevent voluntary expulsions becoming the new Israeli policy, a spokesman said.

Mr. Rabin, who toppled Mr. Shamir in elections last month, spent much of his first week in

office successfully negotiating a voluntary exile deal with five wanted Palestinians holed up at the West Bank university of Al Najah.

"What happened at Al Najah was an incorrect decision, it should not be repeated," said Mr. Malki.

Under pressure from the United States, Israel's closest ally and sponsor of Middle East peace talks, Israel eased expulsions during the past year. It has not expelled any Palestinians since it expelled four in April 1991.

Israeli, Palestinian killed

A Palestinian and an Israeli policeman were killed Thursday in a fight outside Old Jerusalem.

Police said the Palestinian attacked two policemen with a knife, wounding one fatally and the other lightly.

An Israeli grabbed a pistol from one of the police and opened fire, as did two border police nearby, the army said.

The Palestinian died on the spot, the

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RELIEF FOR CHECHENS: A plane loaded with 16.5 tonnes of medicine and medical supplies worth JD 150,000 left Amman Friday for the Chechen-Ingush Republic. The plane load was contributed by the Hashemite Jordanian Charitable Organisation. The organisation sent a shipment of food and medical supplies to Somali refugees in Yemen on July 18.

Parliament deadlocked over law on parties, joint session in the offing

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) has confounded expectations and is insisting on its amendments to the draft law on political parties, but the government appears confident that the passage of the legislation is ensured in the form it was approved by the Lower House.

The Senate, in a meeting Thursday, remained firm in its position that the amendments it proposed should be incorporated into the draft law regardless of the rejection by the Lower House.

As a conciliatory gesture, the appointed 40-member Upper House entrusted its Law Committee with drawing up a "memorandum" explaining its reasons for proposing the amendments to the elected 80-member House, senators who attended the session told the Jordan Times.

Most observers said a joint session of Parliament appeared to be the only way out of the deadlock in view of the stated positions of members of both chambers. And the government backs the position of the Lower House.

"The government is fully behind the Lower House over this issue and is confident that the draft law will secure endorsement in a joint session," said a senior official.

"We explained our stand to the Upper House and reaffirmed our determination to ensure the enactment of the law as soon as possible," added the official, who asked not to be named.

"We have worked very hard with the Lower House to produce its endorsement of the draft and we are committed to the agreements we made with the House."

The original law was drafted by the government and presented to Parliament at the outset of the current extraordinary session which began in mid-June. The draft underwent amendments in the Lower House after extensive deliberations between the government and the various political blocs before being passed on to the Upper House in mid-July.

The Senate added its own amendments to the draft and sent it back to the House one week later. The House, arguing that it was not willing to go beyond the changes it incorporated in its compromise

with the government, rejected the Senate amendments and returned the law to the Senate last Wednesday. The Senate is now insisting on its amendments and hence the prospect of a joint session of the two chambers where a two-thirds majority will decide the fate of the draft law.

Senators argued that the Lower House appeared not to have fully understood the reasons behind the Senate-proposed amendments and hence the decision to present an explanation. "But that does mean any change in the Senate's position and insistence on the amendments it has proposed," said an Upper House member.

"In fact, the amendments we proposed are aimed at protecting the interests of the citizen rather than harming them as the deputies (members of the Lower House) seem to argue," added the senator, who preferred anonymity.

"If our brothers in the Lower House choose not to appreciate our explanation (as will be presented in the suggested memorandum), then we have no choice but to convene a

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Junblatt defies government

BEIRUT (AP) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt defied President Elias Hrawi's government and ordered his followers to stage a sit-in Friday at a national library southeast of Beirut, refusing to turn it back to government hands.

Hundreds of white-turbaned Druze clergymen, wearing traditional black garbs, staged the protest at the national library in Baqila, one day after the army moved into the three-storey building to re-establish government control.

The sit-in was accompanied by a general strike that gripped the Shouf mountains. Mr. Junblatt's traditional power base, to protest against the army's takeover of the library as well as two historic palaces in nearby Beiddin.

Banks, shops, restaurants and other businesses closed in the Shouf in line with the strike called by Mr. Junblatt to protest against what he described as "provocative practices," by the government.

The army's move Thursday was in line with a government decision to re-establish control over state-owned buildings that had been confiscated by the various militias during the 1975-1990 civil war.

The three state-owned sites had been controlled by Mr. Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Helmeted government troops, armed with M-16 assault rifles, did not try to prevent the Druze clergymen from entering the library building.

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Sahaf takes over as Iraqi foreign minister

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein has sacked his finance minister. Diplomats said the cabinet shake-up showed the strains of U.N. sanctions.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayer, a Saddam confidant and former ambassador who entered the cabinet after the Gulf war, took over the Finance Ministry from Majeed Abed Jasfar.

Diplomats attributed Mr. Abed Jasfar's dismissal to grave economic problems under U.N. sanctions.

The blockade has blocked oil sales abroad, Iraq's main source of income. The country suffers rampant inflation and a crisis over forged banknotes.

Mr. Khudayer has held no previous economic post. He rose through the military branch of the ruling Baath Party and served as ambassador to Bulgaria and Iran.

Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, Mr. Khudayer's number two as minister of state, was named foreign minister, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

President Saddam also dismissed the minister of higher education and scientific research, Abdul Razzak Al Hashimi.

Diplomats said he lost President Saddam's confidence over another consequence of the Gulf war — a "brain drain" of academics and scientists emigrating to escape hardship and isolation.

His replacement was the head of Iraq's Atomic Energy Organisation, Humam Abdul Khaliq Abdul Ghafur.

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"Merchants executed" Iraq has executed more than 20

Arafat offers to meet Israel's premier

TEL AVIV (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in a rare interview with an Israeli newspaper published Friday that he was willing to meet with Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

Praising Mr. Rabin's election as a "vote for peace," Mr. Arafat asked the Israeli leader to negotiate directly with the PLO as the only group that can ensure a peace settlement.

His remarks were published in the respected Israeli daily Haaretz. Mr. Arafat declared that Arabs and Jews are "brothers" and repeatedly said peace was possible with good will by all.

The wide-ranging interview was conducted by Uri Avnery, a liberal Israeli journalist who first talked to Mr. Arafat when the PLO was under siege by the Israeli army in Beirut in 1982.

Asked whether he would meet with Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat said: "I'm ready. But is he ready?"

Asked what he would tell the Israeli leader, Mr. Arafat said: "I would tell him one thing: 'Come and let's make a just peace, for the sake of our children and your children.'" He was evasive when asked whether he would meet Mr. Rabin in occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben Ari, refused comment on the interview Friday.

All Israeli governments, including Mr. Rabin's, refuse to negotiate with the PLO.

But some members of Mr. Rabin's left-of-centre coalition

government, including leading legislators in his own Labour Party, support talks with the PLO on condition it renounces violence.

And unlike his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Rabin has suggested he does not mind if Palestinian peace negotiators consult with the PLO.

In the interview, Mr. Arafat urged Mr. Rabin to go one step further and agree to formal talks.

"I would like to ask Rabin: In your big (TV) showdown with Shamir on the eve of the elections, you challenged Shamir and told him he was conducting indirect negotiations with the PLO and with Arafat. I'm asking: Why are continuing along the same road now?"

Mr. Arafat warned that there could be no peace settlement without the PLO. "If you negotiate with the principal power, the PLO, it is possible to solve problems. If you ignore the principal group, nothing will get settled."

Mr. Arafat kept evading repeated questions on whether the PLO would back a "ceasefire" between Israelis and Palestinians during the negotiations.

"You want me to give you answers when I'm on the outside," he said. He added later: "I will not give something for nothing."

Concerning details of a peace settlement, he said he wanted foreign observers to oversee proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said he also backed the idea

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U.N. to issue report on Baghdad search this week

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

As expected, the long-delayed U.N. search of Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture did not turn up evidence of long-range missiles or other forbidden weapons, the chief weapons inspector has confirmed.

Iraqi officials barred weapons inspectors from the ministry for more than three weeks.

The U.N. team searched the ministry Tuesday and Wednesday for evidence that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction, which are banned by Security Council resolutions that ended the Gulf war.

The inspectors were still analysing some photographs and other evidence from the ministry and would issue a final report Monday, said Rolf Ekeus, head of the council's weapons commission.

"I don't feel from the early information that we will get conclusive proof of forbidden material," he said.

Inspectors were barred from the ministry July 5. They waited outside for 17 days before they left citing the threat of violence

by Iraqi demonstrators.

Mr. Ekeus said his arms experts were "approaching the end" of their major searches, and did not plan to step up their inspections — a tactic the United States favours to pressure Iraq.

At a news conference after he briefed the Security Council, Mr. Ekeus said Thursday he had not expected the search to turn up proof of banned weapons development.

Nevertheless, he declared the enterprise an "absolute, total, unqualified success" because Iraq, after first resisting, allowed the search under the conditions dictated by the United Nations.

Mr. Ekeus said he refused a request by Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, to ban citizens of countries that fought the Gulf war against Iraq from future inspection teams.

Inspectors on the team that entered the ministry in Baghdad were from Finland, Switzerland, Russia and Germany — none of which joined the anti-Iraq coalition.

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Over 213 reportedly killed in two air crashes

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Two

aircraft were reported Friday, killing over 213 people.

A Thai Airways International jetliner carrying 113 people slammed into a hill in the forested Himalayan foothills amid heavy rain Friday as it prepared to land, Kathmandu airport officials said.

Nepalese army teams found the wreckage in the Palung Valley about 50 kilometres south of Kathmandu, a three-hour walk from the nearest road.

It was doubtful there were any survivors.

The Airbus A310-300, apparently carrying mostly tourists, lost contact with the air control tower 75 kilometres south of the airport near the village of Simra, where the hills begin to rise to the lofty Himalayas, the airline said.

A statement released in Bangkok said 11 Americans, 17 Japanese and 23 Nepalese were aboard the aircraft. The plane also carried five Belgians, five Finns, four Germans, three Spaniards, two Thais, two Koreans, two Israelis, two Britons, two Canadians, one New Zealander and one Australian.

Kathmandu is a popular tourist destination and the staging point for mountain climbing teams hop-

ing to scale the world's highest peaks. But July, when the city is drenched by summer monsoons, is off-season, possibly explaining why the plane was half-empty.

Thai Airways said the jet was built in November 1987 and leased from a Canadian company, Blenheim, in May 1990.

It was the first major accident involving a Thai Airways International airline since its domestic and international operations merged in 1988.

A YAK-42 airline carrying 116 passengers and 10 crew members crashed on takeoff from Nanjing airport in east China on Friday, killing 100 of those on board.

It said the 26 other people on board the flight, from Nanjing City in Jiangsu province to Xian City in southeast China's Fujian province, were injured and rescue operations were still going on.

The aircraft, operated by the China General-Purpose Airline Company, failed to lift off and ended in a ball of fire about 600 metres beyond the runway, the agency said.

The case of the crash is under investigation, the agency added, and Nanjing airport has resumed normal operations.

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King Hussein gives honours

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to the President of the Swiss Confederation congratulating him on his country's national day, and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Swiss people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a similar cable to President Nicéphore Soglo, congratulating him on his country's national day.

In another development, King Hussein conferred upon the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan, Mohammad Al Munji Lahbib, and the European Community (EC) delegate, Christian Falkowski, Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber decorated the two diplomats with the two medals at a special dinner held to honour them.

Dr. Abu Jaber also presented a token gift to the Canadian ambassador to Jordan, Arthur Percy Sherwood, whose term in office in Jordan has ended.

Licensed banks assets grow 70%

By Ziad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The assets of licensed banks have grown to JD 5.9 billion up to the end of May 1992, a 70 per cent increase of May 1989 figures, according to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Dr. Nabulsi said that client deposits in local and foreign currency up to the end of May 1992 was JD 4.3 billion, a 76 per cent increase over May 1989 figures.

Such an increase was accompanied by a rise in foreign currency deposits, which jumped from 26 per cent to 40 per cent during that period. Dr. Nabulsi attributed the jump in deposits to more banking awareness and confidence in the banking system, as well as improvement in the Jordanian economy and the monetary policy which provides competitive returns for cash deposits in local currency.

Dr. Nabulsi noted the success of the national economic adjustment programme, saying that it had contributed to stabilising the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and to restoring confidence in the national economy despite the enormous external pressures.

He pointed out that the CBJ's interference in the market in 1989 and 1990 has led to the improvement and stability of the exchange rate of the local currency. He added that the bank had succeeded in bridging the gap between the official exchange rate of the dinar and the market rate.

Before CBJ interference in 1989 the parallel market rate was 815 fils to the dollar while the official exchange rate was 570 fils. With the elimination of the gap a standard rate of 675 fils per each dollar has been introduced as of February 1990, according to Dr. Nabulsi. He voiced hope that performance of banks will continue to improve and stressed that the CBJ has paid more attention to the banking system since mid-1989 in order to provide a more favourable economic environment for the banking sector.

To achieve this end, the CBJ embarked on many measures including the merger of financial institutions into banks. Dr. Nabulsi pointed out that the CBJ is currently considering a proposal to increase the minimum bank capital to JD10 million.

Belgians depart confident about Jordan's development

By Mona Ghumcim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The opportunity to travel is the chance to broaden the mind by increasing one's knowledge of a particular civilisation, enhancing one's awareness of a thriving culture and most importantly, eliminating one's misconceptions about a foreign people, especially stereotypes often derived from inaccurate media reports.

By travelling to Jordan, the Olvaint Conference of Belgium (OCB), a group of about 25 university students, had the chance to observe, interact and study various aspects of Jordanian participation in volunteer services and visits to Jordanian universities, companies and societies, as well as visits to personal homes, refugee camps and tourist sites.

Before their departure at the end of July, the OCB members held an informal press conference, or rather discussion, to convey to the public what they had learnt about Jordan during their stay. The members' comments included their impressions on political, economic, cultural and religious issues facing the Kingdom.

The Belgian students felt that Jordan has the ability to develop itself in economic and political fields despite its dependency on other nations. The recent bid for democracy was seen as a positive step on the road to economic and political recovery, the Islamic Bloc's development of a political structure was hope for other political groups to develop themselves and the resuming of foreign relations, for example United States Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Jordan, was viewed as a sincere desire for peace.

The Belgian panel stressed peace as a solution to many of the Kingdom's problems, the state of the economy in particular. One Belgian student pointed out Jordan's debts from the 1980s which only worsened with the effects of the Gulf crisis, bringing refugees and expatriates pouring into the country, not to mention the sanctions on Iraq that further deprived Jordan of its major outlet.

Nonetheless, he said, "Jordan is used to behaving like a tight-rope dancer," expressing confidence in Jordan's ability to adapt to its circumstances.

Another student, Cecile, gave the group's views on Jordanian culture. She stressed the country's historical importance and the Arab contribution to the West.

"Islamic arts and poetry have reached us through Spain," she said in reference to the Arab influence "in northern Europe, also citing the introduction of mathematics and sciences by the Arabs. For Jordan specifically, she said, the students were "touched by the legendary sense of hospitality" and impressed with "Jordan as a mosaic of lifestyles" through its diversity of people, including bedouins and Palestinians.

The understanding of the Palestinian issue was a major

concern for the OCB members. One student said that information in the West was based on insufficient communication with the Arab World and that in dealing with both Palestinians and Jordanians here, the students found a genuine "desire for peace from everyone (they) met."

In visiting the refugee camps, the students were surprised by the Palestinian integration within the Jordanian population and at the same time further informed on the oppression and violation of human rights in the occupied territories, citing the closure of Arab universities as an example.

However, with the results of the Gulf war and the recent elections, the OCB members felt that Israel is in a new position to be more cooperative in the peace process.

Certainly the most puzzling yet intriguing aspect of Jordanian life to the Belgian students was the role of religion, both socially and politically. In regards to Islam, one student said that the "Western perception may be incomplete and biased with extreme situations and points of view," but that the discussions in which the students participated helped them "change their minds on some points," or at least better understand them.

For example, polygamy and the wearing of a veil seemed rather bizarre to the Belgians, but after an exchange of ideas, most of the students came to some sort of an understanding, whether they agreed or not.

However, an aspect of Islam which one student considered "in opposition of (their) belief in tolerance and freedom" and which most of the students could not comprehend was the fact that a Muslim cannot convert (according to the Quran). Islam to be seen as the "last revealed religion by God and as the most complete and perfect religion" was very difficult for the Belgian students to conceive.

In politics, the students had a hard time understanding Islamic law considering in Belgium strictly the government sets the rules and there is absolutely no mixture of politics and religion. Nonetheless, the students were able to discuss both difference and similarities in their religions.

Islam was an area which the students wished they could have had more time to discuss and understand. They commented on the desire to have more views from the common people, along with the official sources. Another area in which they felt they had insufficient information was the "exact role of the King in Jordan, but explained that it is difficult to say what is the role of a head of state in any country. Nevertheless, the students felt that about 90% of the information they needed was provided.

The conference closed with an exchange of gifts and words of appreciation on the part of the Belgian students, the Belgian ambassador to Jordan and president Abdullah Kanaan and organiser of foreign affairs Adnan Hamawi of the Arab Youth Forum.



Fire destroys plastic shoe factory

Factory fire, fatal wedding stabbing and two attempted suicides over Tawjihi results occur at weekend

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fire engulfed a plastic shoe factory in Mugablein Thursday causing heavy material losses. There were no casualties.

Civil Defence Department CDD sources said that large quantities of plastic were burnt and most of the machinery damaged by the fire extinguished before it spread to nearby factories.

CDD sources said the cause of the fire was still being investigated. Meanwhile, a daily newspaper reported a fatal knife fight in Tafleh governorate between family members of a couple to be married.

The report, in Sawt Al Shaab

Arabic daily, said that the bride's brother angered the groom's delay, stabbed two of his to-be brother in laws, killing one of them instantly. The other is still in a local hospital.

The police made some arrests and are continuing investigations, the report noted.

The daily also reported the murder of 45-year-old farmer in a local hospital.

Failure in the Tawjihi examinations this year drove two girls aged 18 and 19 from the Jerash district to attempt suicide by drug overdose. According to Al Ra'i daily, the girls were being treated at the local hospital.

Ministry flushes out 311 illegal workers, more expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — Inspection campaign launched by the Ministry of Labour last week found 311 illegal workers in the country.

A ministry official said that the inspectors conducted 1,794 visits to business and factories and discovered several hundred non-Jordanians employed without valid work permits in Amman and Zarqa.

The official said that the workers and employers are being fined.

He said search campaigns will continue as a measure by the ministry to re-organise the local labour market.

Thousands of non-Jordanians are known to be working in the country without permits and the Ministry of Labour has recently

started to crack down.

Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabari said recently that in 40 days JD 5 million in work permit fees were collected from 70,000 guest workers in the Kingdom who did not have proper work documents.

Non-Jordanians were asked by the ministry to comply with regulations by the end of last June, noting that non-Jordanian Arabs were required to pay JD 100 and non Arabs JD 300 for annual permits.

Ministry officials said that the crackdown was necessary to restrict the number of non Jordanians employed in the country and to give priority to the unemployed Jordanians.

Lower House accuses U.S. of fueling Jewish settlements and depriving Palestinians chance to regain homeland

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament issued a statement Thursday accusing the United States of trying to impose a political settlement in the region that liquidates the Palestinian problem by autonomy rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement said that political developments since the Madrid conference indicate that the U.S. administration is seeking to perpetuate Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands, deprive Palestinians of their national rights and dilute Arab and Islamic identity and character of Jerusalem.

The statement said the U.S. secretary of state's recent visit peddling a plan was to speed up the implementation of the American-imposed solution in order to split Arab banks and make separate deals with each Arab party.

In reaction, the Lower House of Parliament stressed

the following points:

— Its absolute rejection of any solution that liquidates the Palestine problem and deprives Palestinians their national rights;

— Its absolute support for the intifada, demanding all Palestinian forces and factions in the occupied Arab lands to end their disputes and unite in the face of Israeli policies;

— Its absolute rejection of internationalising Jerusalem, and the Islamic and Christian holy places. Its support of His Majesty King Hussein's moves to confront attempts by other parties to restore the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque and his effort to close the door in the face of agents seeking to internationalise Jerusalem as a prelude to Judaizing the city;

— It emphasises that all Zionist settlements are a real danger threatening Palestinian land and reflects Zionist expansion that threatens Jordan's security and sovereignty;

— The autonomy rule being imposed by the U.S. administration aims to settle Palestinians in countries where they are now residing and the Lower House reaffirms the rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland;

— It reaffirms the need for Arab-Arab reconciliation and a minimum level of solidarity among Arab and Islamic countries to face enemy onslaught; and supports moves to embrace the inalienable national rights of all Arab and Muslim countries; — it rejects and condemns all statements about the normalisation of relations with Israel as issued by some Arab countries, because such statements and intentions can only be considered as serving the interests of Israel;

— It denounces Israel's continued practice of deporting Arab citizens from their Palestinian homeland — a systematic policy to uproot Palestinians.

Khasawneh urges crackdown on fruit smugglers to protect local farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — Because the Ministry of Agriculture has banned the importation of fruit, foreign produce found in local markets must have been smuggled, according to Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh.

Dr. Khasawneh appealed to security and customs departments to prevent smuggling to protect local farmers and to ensure the sale of local products.

Since July, importing fruits and vegetables from other countries has been prohibited. Local fruit crops are satisfying markets, noted the minister.

Dr. Khasawneh attributed the increase of fruits and vegetables this year to the huge amount of rain water which washed away the salt, cold winter season which eliminated insects and the regular

spraying of pesticides conducted by the ministry.

The minister said that Jordan's apple production this year would not be enough and that limited amounts of apples will be imported and stored for distribution.

Onions, garlic and potatoes, once in short supply in past years, are abundant and the ministry plans no imports, said the minister.

He added that licences in the past were given to merchants to import mangoes, kiwis and coconuts because most of them were being smuggled and needed to be controlled.

Dr. Khasawneh noted that Lebanon, which used to buy 25 per cent of Jordan's export produce, has stopped its imports and

in turn Jordan has ended all of imports of Lebanon's apricots and cherries.

Referring to processing agricultural products, Dr. Khasawneh said past governments failed to set up enough plants for processing different kind of fruits produced in Jordan causing surplus problems now being felt.

The minister said that instead of processing only the surplus, the country should process certain types of vegetables and fruits grown according to well-prepared plans.

He said that the cabinet has entrusted the Ministry of Agriculture with conducting a feasibility study on processing of agricultural products in Jordan which is now being done.



Because of a surplus, fruits sold these days are locally produced

Zarqa to update voter lists

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa governorate elections committee will start Saturday revising and updating voter lists Saturday, according to a decision by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki, who chairs the committee.

The committee's work, which will last until Aug. 15, will include deleting the names of people who died last year and the names of those indicted of certain crimes. The committee will also add to the lists the names of newly registered citizens who are eligible to vote.

INFORMATICS held its first computer camp for boys and girls, aged 7-13 years in Aqaba during the period from 10 July to 24 July. Attending the camp, which was held at the Aquamarina Hotel, were 45 kids from Jordan, Iraq and Palestine.

In the picture: Children participating in the Aqaba camp, and the camp's administrative committee. The next camp will be during the mid year holiday. Venue will be fixed later and will be announced in the various media.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabyat to meet JPA

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat will meet Tuesday at Amman Chamber of Industry with members of the general assembly of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). The meeting is held to bolster relations between the legislative authority and the press.

Jordan celebrates Breast Feeding Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with other countries will mark the International Breast Feeding Day on Saturday. On the occasion, the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Society in cooperation with Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will hold 14 gatherings for mothers to acquaint them with the advantages of breast feeding. These gatherings will also be attended by educationalists and officials from the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development.

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Hurry, Mr. Postman

THE SECRETARY General of the Ministry of Post and Communications, Dr. Abdullah Al Jazi, is holding a press conference this morning to introduce to the public his ministry's version of the government-ordered administrative reforms. We do not know what Dr. Jazi is going to unveil in terms of reform, but judging by the current standard of service his ministry is offering Jordanians, he would have to be extremely convincing to give us real hope of real improvements.

Dr. Jazi's ministry, which mostly provides postal services to the public, has so far shown no evidence of moving towards providing advanced mail services like those in industrialised countries. One of the main functions of a mail system is of course delivery to a person or an establishment at a fixed address. The Arabs had established a horse-relay mail service, albeit only for the sultan, as early as the seventh century A.D. Our present mail system has unfortunately turned over the years into a mail-collection service. Instead of a postman delivering your mail at your doorstep, you go to the post office to collect it, wasting in the process fuel, energy and time totally uselessly. And then we are not compensated for providing half the service ourselves. In fact, the cost of mailing a letter from Amman to any address anywhere in the world has been going up all the time, with no real guarantee that it reaches its destiny on time, if it gets there at all.

Known as they are for their generosity, Jordanians would probably tolerate that better, except for the behaviour of our post office employees, which can at times be appalling. This unacceptable behaviour can make a trip to the post office a dreadful undertaking. Those employees, when not lax, are far from being polite with their customers. They sometimes scold the poor customers for not having the right change.

On top of all of this, there are post offices whose location does not justify their existence. Some offices are placed in localities, where they cost rent and wages but bring very little revenue. Instead of going through the trouble of renting those offices, furnishing and staffing them, the ministry could contract any grocer to do the service as the case in advanced countries with long mail service traditions.

We hope that what Dr. Jazi comes up with this morning will be convincing. If he promises that by the turn of the millennium mail is going to be delivered to our homes that will be marvellous. If not, we think all reforms will be meaningless until that happens. While Dr. Jazi and his ministry still deserve the benefit of doubt, we deserve a better mailing system.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily called on the United States to abandon the policy of hatred and malice harboured against Iraq and to stop its starvation of the Iraqi people. Now that the U.N. inspectors have searched the Agriculture Ministry building in Baghdad and found no weapons or any secrets, the U.S. administration is urged to undertake a new policy, devoid of rancour and hatred against the Arab people, and to embark on measures that conform to its own mediation to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the paper. The U.S. campaign against Iraq over the past two years has succeeded in creating tension in the Middle East and widened the gap between the Arab and the American people, said the daily. Iraq has implemented all U.N. resolutions and pulled out its forces from Kuwait, leaving no room for any justification for the continuation of the sanctions imposed on its people, said the daily. Continued sanctions, starvation of the people of Iraq and depriving the sick and elderly of the required medicine can only cause more sufferings to innocent civilians which can be only contrary to the requirements of international legitimacy and laws, said the paper. Such hostile action towards the people of Iraq can by no means be in harmony with the ongoing efforts aimed at attaining peace in the Middle East and, therefore, Washington is called on to end its hatred of Iraq and to work towards re-establishing peace and security for all people in the region, the paper added. The paper urged Washington to help end the tension in the Gulf as it continues efforts to end the conflict in the Middle East.

BY REACHING a compromise solution to the crisis created by the U.N. inspectors, regarding the Ministry of Agriculture building in Baghdad, Iraq has thwarted Western plots and averted another aggression on its people, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. The creation of that crisis was intended as a pretext to perpetuate the sanctions on Iraq, accusing its leadership of defying the U.N. and its resolutions and refusing to allow inspection of its facilities, said the daily. The United Nations, which is no more concerned over the lives of the innocent civilians in Iraq, has kept a closed eye to the open threats issued by the U.S. and Britain against Iraq and did nothing to defuse the crisis, the daily pointed out. By reaching a compromise with the concerned U.N. appointed inspectors' chief, Baghdad prevented U.S. and British members of the inspection team to be involved in searching the building and at the same time denied the Americans the chance to launch aggression on Iraqi economic and military positions reconstructed after the Gulf war, continued the paper. The paper said that Iraq has indeed achieved a major success at the diplomatic and political level to the dismay of the country's adversaries, like Washington and London, which have been hatching new plots against the Iraqi people. At the same time, said the paper, Iraq has proved to the world that it was complying in letter and spirit with the international legitimacy and implementing all U.N. Security Council resolutions.

'Despite its pose as a bastion against Soviet expansion, Israel passed U.S. intelligence to Moscow'

By Jane Hunter

Following is the second of a three-part article on U.S. and Israeli covert operations in the Third World. The first part of the article, reprinted from *The Link*, published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc., appeared in the July 30-31 issue of the *Jordan Times*.

Targeting Kabul — and the U.S.S.R.

During the 1980's Israel and its U.S. supporters hammered on the theme of Israel as a "strategic asset" in Washington's cold war against the Soviet Union. Similarly, vast popular sympathy was drummed up for Israel by portraying it as a frail reed, vulnerable to attack by the world's one billion Muslims, who, Israel's partisans suggested, harboured an intrinsic hatred of the Jewish state.

The covert reality was much more flexible. Israel worked comfortably with Pakistani officials and their allies — the most radically Islamic faction of the Afghan guerrillas. And despite its pose as a bastion against Soviet expansion, Israel passed U.S. intelligence to Moscow. The men who plotted these seemingly contradictory policies may have chortled at their sophistication. But the everyday Soviets and Americans who were not in on the joke supported military buildups that left both superpowers too broke to maintain social services for vast sectors of their populations and cheered on a war that may well have been the prelude to decades of intercommunal strife in Afghanistan.

One of Ari Ben-Menashe's

allegations which has been confirmed is his astonishing claim that an Israeli team stationed in Pakistan between 1983 and 1986, to coordinate arms shipments to Iran trained the hardline guerrillas of the Hezb-i-Islami faction, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Serving and former Pakistani officials confirmed that such a team was present, at least in 1985. They were unable, however, to confirm his claim that in 1985 Israeli and Pakistani intelligence agencies diverted \$300 million worth of weapons to Iran that the U.S. Congress had bought for the Afghan guerrillas, or Mujaheddin, to use in their fight against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. Mr. Ben-Menashe claims that the arms diversion was done to raise funds for the anti-Nicaraguan contras.

An even stranger Afghanistan connection is one claimed by Jonathan Jay Pollard, the civilian naval intelligence analyst who was caught spying for Israel in 1985 and sentenced to life in prison in 1987.

Mr. Pollard says he was asked to help deliver arms to the Mujaheddin by Kurt Lobeck, who posed as a journalist but was involved in highly secret operations run by the national security council — by National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane claims Mr. Pollard.

At his trial, Mr. Pollard says, he threatened to expose McFarlane, if the prosecutor charged him with passing secrets to Afghanistan through Mr. Lobeck. Mr. Pollard, a Jew and a Zionist, was not the aberration Israeli's supporters claimed that he was. Victor Ostrovsky, a man

with a grudge over his firing from Mossad, recently revealed in a book the Israeli government tried to ban in the United States that, to augment its small core of 1,200 employees, Mossad used Jewish "helpers" (sayanim) in Europe and North America to obtain information and for such tasks as renting cars and apartments. Mossad also sets up and trains armed Jewish groups called "frames" (Tsafirim) in various countries around the world, Mr. Ostrovsky claimed.

If the Americans appreciated Israel's help in Afghanistan, they may have been more ambivalent about its programme of targeting cities in the Soviet Union for nuclear attack — especially when as the cold war thawed and the superpowers began to negotiate arms reductions, Moscow suggested that Israel's nuclear-capable Jericho missile should be counted as part of the U.S. inventory of intermediate-range missiles.

Early in the Reagan administration, Richard Burt, at the time the director of the State Department's politico-military affairs bureau, told journalists Andrew and Leslie Cockburn that the U.S.S.R. in its nuclear sights.

Israeli Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who served as Jonathan Jay Pollard's "handler," was "perhaps Israel's top air force expert in nuclear targeting and the delivery of nuclear weapons," writes Seymour Hersh in his recent book about Israel's nuclear weapons programme Mr. Hersh writes that Sella was directing Pollard to gather information to pinpoint missile targets within the

U.S.S.R. The idea was to deter the Soviets from joining their Arab allies in a war against Israel.

At the same time, according to a number of sources, Israel also struck up a secret intelligence-sharing relationship with Moscow, feeding the Soviet intelligence gathered by Mr. Pollard, and hoping, in exchange, for an easing in restrictions on Jewish emigration to Israel. According to Andrew and Leslie Cockburn: "It has been confirmed directly and unequivocally by two very well-placed U.S. sources with a direct interest in the Pollard case and, in a backhanded fashion, by a former Israeli intelligence officer who answered a question on this topic by saying, 'The Russians didn't get anything that was really important'."

But a senior U.S. intelligence officer and a former CIA official told Seymour Hersh that intelligence passed by Mr. Pollard enabled the Soviet Union to "roll up" U.S. agents and had seriously impeded U.S. technical intelligence collection.

A 1987 report (widely disbelieved at the time) said that the relationship had begun in the early 1980s.

Ari Ben-Menashe told Mr. Hersh that in 1984 Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir approached the Soviet Union, ordering Mossad's representative in Romania to exchange information with the Soviets. Mr. Hersh was able to confirm with another knowledgeable (although unnamed) Israeli that the relationship blossomed as Israel provided Moscow with retype ("sanitized") U.S. intelligence documents obtained by Jonathan Jay Pollard.

Mr. Shamir, said the Israeli source, had worked for improved ties with the U.S.S.R. since his days as a Mossad officer in the 1950s and 1960s because he regarded Moscow as a good counterbalance to Washington, preferring its "toughness" over the "soft, bourgeois, materialistic and effete" United States.

If the Reagan administration knew about this at the time, it was betraying the glibly voters who supported the military buildup which beggared the U.S. economy.

Ari Ben-Menashe's claim that Moscow reciprocated late in 1984, by inviting Israel to an intelligence conference in India to talk about Pakistan's nuclear reactor is consistent with reports that three times, the last in July 1985, Israel, armed with satellite photographs provided by Jonathan Pollard, tried to enlist India in a joint attack on the reactor, India declined, relieving Israel of the headache of juggling its anti-Afghanistan work in Pakistan with an attack on that country.

Ari Ben-Menashe credits the late media baron Robert Maxwell with opening the doors to Eastern Europe for Israel — and also with laundering the profits of Israeli arms sales to Iran through investments in Eastern Europe.

In "The Samson Option" Seymour Hersh (who repeated only those Ben-Menashe allegations he was able to confirm with other sources) writes that Mr.

Maxwell helped the Israeli government execute a disinformation campaign to blunt revelations that Mordecai Vanunu, a former technician at Israel's nuclear weapons reactor was making to the Sunday Times.

Mr. Maxwell's mysterious death at sea last November makes it unlikely that his role in the Vanunu affair will ever be fully known. The snarled and looted business empire Maxwell left behind makes it unlikely that his sudden spurt of investment in Israel in the mid-1980s, most notably in the newspaper *Ma'ariv* and *Seitex*, a printing equipment firm, will ever be tied definitively to arms profits or money laundering.

However, the foreign editor of Maxwell's *Daily Mirror*, Nicholas Davies, was fired last fall after he falsely denied the claim in "The Samson Option" that he had been a member of Ari Ben-Menashe's Ora Group, involved with dealing arms to Iran. Mr. Davies was caught out when a rival paper published a picture of him meeting with an Ohio arms dealer.

Iraq

The dissonance between Israel's pose as a "strategic asset" and its covert dealings with Moscow is no more jarring than Washington's own contradictory set of Gulf policies.

While it sanctioned and sometimes participated in Israel's large-scale support of Iran, Washington was "tilting" toward Iraq, facilitating its acquisition of weapons, passing it intelligence, and running a naval patrol in the Gulf that advanced Iraq's war aims.

U.S. support for Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war helped perpetuate that conflict with its awful toll of one million casualties. And many believe that the Bush administration's continuation of the same pro-Iraq policies in the war's aftermath encouraged Iraq to think that it could invade Kuwait without triggering a U.S. response.

However, the massive war with which the administration responded to Iraq's occupation of its neighbour in August 1990 and the continued economic sanctions against the government of Saddam Hussein have exacted a fearful toll from the Iraqi people in the form of death, disease and malnutrition.

Along with its future early commitment to arming of Iran, the Reagan administration made sure that Iraq did not go begging for the implements of destruction. It began a programme of arming Iraq through third countries that was a mirror image of the arms sales to Iran.

In this case the administration was forced to notify Congress about a 1986 unauthorised transfer to Iraq of U.S.-made bombs by Saudi Arabia after an angry State Department insisted on alerting congressional leaders.

Congress is not known to have taken any action on the notification and, evidently, the Iran-contra hearings did not act as a

deterrent to either the administration or Saudi Arabia (whose efforts on behalf of the contras were extensively discussed under the figleaf sobriquet "country number two").

After the war against Iraq, Saudi Arabia again transferred U.S.-made equipment — this time to Syria and Bangladesh — with the apparent blessing of the Bush administration.

Saudi Arabia — and the State Department — called the transfers " inadvertent." But, a New York Times editorial noted acutely, "recurrent fits of inadvertence require explanation."

President Bush might soon be pressed to explain some stealth diplomacy he reportedly undertook as vice president that could hardly have been inadvertent.

Last June the Washington Jewish Week reported that, according to a source congressional investigators considered credible, Mr. Bush "made as many as four clandestine trips to Damascus, starting in early 1986" to negotiate the release of the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon with Syrian officials.

The Syrians wanted better relations with Washington, said the paper, and "Bush offered the possibility of arms and other considerations." But the vice president was concerned about the timing of the hostages' release. He showed a desire to put off the actual transaction until the spring of 1988, just as he was launching his presidential bid.

But the Syrians said no dice, according to the Washington Jewish Week. After observing the havoc caused in the U.S. by the Iran-contra revelations, "the Syrians were said to have grasped the amount of leverage they now had over Bush with their knowledge of his clandestine initiatives."

In July 21 story that closely paralleled the Washington Jewish Week's but did not report the allegations about Bush, the San Francisco Examiner reported that the Senate intelligence committee was investigating allegations that the Reagan administration spurned offers of freedom for the hostages in Lebanon. Both papers quoted Robert Ladd, a former Nixon aide with admitted ties to the CIA, who said he acted as an intermediary in another Syrian attempt to extricate the hostages but that the offers he relayed died after they were referred to Oliver North and CIA officials who were subsequently connected to the Iran-contra affair. "I knew the CIA was just slow-rolling it," a Pentagon official told the Washington Jewish Week.

Last summer White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater dismissed the story as a "complete fabrication." But in March, two senior Republican senators were reported to be pressing for an investigation of the allegations — the second set of charges that the Reagan-Bush team was willing to keep U.S. hostages on ice for domestic political advantage.

Israel did not sit passively as its strategic partner aided Iraq.

(Continued on page 5)

THE WEEK IN PRINT

'Corruption' case shows deputies reneged on election pledges

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The local newspapers in the past week discussed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's new government, the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour in the Middle East, the situation in Iraq in light of the U.N. inspectors crisis and a host of domestic issues.

Newspapers editorials and columnists focused attention on the new government in Israel, headed by Yitzhak Rabin, noting that the Israeli premier has started to back down from his earlier commitments. Within one month of forming the Labour — led government, Mr. Rabin announced that he is no more able to honour the government's promises regarding the peace process with the Arabs, said Al Dostour daily.

Mr. Rabin said he has no magic formulas for the attainment of peace, but he intends to pursue the negotiations with the concerned parties, said the daily.

By this, the Israeli prime minister is telling the world that he is not committed to complying with the requirements of the international legitimacy and withdrawing Israeli forces from the occupied regions in return for peace with the Arabs, the paper continued.

Now that the dust has settled after the Israeli elections and the Rabin campaign, in which he bragged about an impending solution to the Middle East conflict, the new prime minister's image is beginning to show its true colours, according to a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

Yoram Al Abssi said that the Western world was taken in by Mr. Rabin's statements, issued in the wake of the election, despite the fact that Mr. Rabin did not give one single statement about his compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The writer said that Mr. Rabin is now retreating from the timid statements he gave and is showing no sign of responding to the world community's will or the requirements of a lasting peace.

Following his success in the parliamentary elections, the Israeli prime minister is now focusing his government's attention on means of fragmenting the peace process, according to Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab.

The writer said that Mr. Rabin has called the Palestinians for separate peace negotiations in Washington, before the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, thus attempting to breach the unity of the Arab parties.

But, the writer noted, Mr. Rabin's plots have received a hard blow with the statement of the Palestinian and the other Arab parties in the meeting in Damascus which slammed Israel's conspiracy.

Referring to the Damascus meeting between the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Al Ra'i daily said now that success has been achieved in attaining a unified formula with which to confront the U.S.-Israeli plans, the Arab states are encouraged to take a step further and try to achieve

solidarity among themselves. The meeting in Damascus yielded satisfactory results which should be built on in the current battle for peace, said the daily.

This view was echoed by both Al Dostour and Sawt Al Shaab dailies which described the result as one step towards enhancing future coordination among Arab parties.

The Damascus paper showed that the Arab World does not accept any piecemeal agreements with the Israelis, said the dailies.

Referring to the outcome of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dostour, said that Mr. Rabin's announcement of partial freeze of settlements and the U.S. administration's promises to Israel about the loan guarantees are of no concern to the Arabs since they only serve the U.S.-Israeli alliance's purpose.

The writer said that Mr. Bush is seeking support from the Jews, promising them loan guarantees, but the Arabs demand that a full halt to the settlement programme materialise before peace can be achieved.

Commenting on the same theme, Mahmoud Al Rimawi said in Al Ra'i that the downfall of Shamir and his Likud government was not enough. Israel, under Rabin and Labour, should prove that there is a total departure from the Likud's policies through halting the Jewish settlement programme in the occupied Arab territories, he demanded.

Instead of trying to peddle Mr. Rabin's policies in the Arab World, the U.S. administration ought to embark on meaningful steps leading to genuine peace, demanded the writer.

Referring to the situation in Iraq in light of the U.N. inspectors crisis with the Baghdad government, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab warned that aggression on Iraq cannot be ruled out.

Salameh Ekour said that Washington, backed by London, Paris and Ankara can find any pretext to launch aggression on Iraq though they are not justified to launch it.

As long as the U.S. has decided to impose its hegemony on all oil resources, including those in Libya and Iraq to attempt to control the destinies of Europe and Japan, nothing can stop the aggressor from committing more aggressions, said the writer.

The American president, facing a deterioration in his popularity and lagging in the race for the presidential elections has chosen to issue new threats to Iraq in a bid to divert the American public's attention, said Abdul Rahim Omar in Al Ra'i.

The writer said that Mr. Bush is angered because the Iraqi leadership remains unchanged while he is in balance and is trying his hand again at aggression, finding excuses for attacking the Iraqi people.

It seems that the coming months, preceding the American

presidential elections, are bound to witness an escalation of U.S. campaigns against Iraq, said Taher Al Udwan in Al Dostour.

The writer said that Washington's determination to bring down the regime Saddam Hussein lies behind the current confrontation with Baghdad.

He said that the talks between President Bush and the Iraqi opposition in Washington is only one phase of the American administration's ongoing plots to dismantle the Iraqi regime.

Discussing Turkey's attitude towards the Arab Nation, a columnist in Al Dostour said that every time the Arabs have some hope that Ankara would improve its relations with the Arabs, they astonished to see otherwise, due to Turkey's hostile attitude.

The writer said that the opening the Attaturk dam, the Turkish prime minister issued statements considered hostile to the Arabs, manifesting the Turk's continued hatred for their neighbours in the south and east.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, his colleague in Al Dostour, said that Israel has pillage the land and water of Palestine, while Turkey is now trying its hand by stealing the water of the Tigris and Euphrates, denying the Arabs the precious water resource.

He said the Arab countries which backed the aggression on Iraq and allowed Israel and Iran to swallow up part of their countries should not be surprised by Ankara's hostile actions.

The question of corruption in light of a current parliamentary debate was tackled by a number of columnists in the daily press.

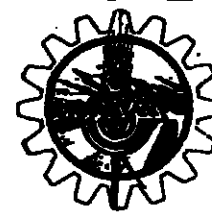
Tarek Massarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i criticised those deputies who absented themselves before a session discussing the corruption of former government officials, noting that this is a very important issue affecting national interests.

The writer said that the former officials have committed a crime and should be held accountable for their actions.

The writer called on the speaker of the House of Parliament to publish the names of those deputies who absent themselves from debates on this vital issue.

Taher Al Udwan called in his column in Al Dostour for the discussion of economic crimes as well as corruption cases. He said that the deputies had promised the voters in the past elections to deal with these two questions along with others and it is time that the public demanded that Parliament fulfilled its promises.

A columnist in Al Ra'i voiced criticism of the Lower House for not taking crucial decisions to punish the former government officials charged with corruption. He said all Parliament did was to create a committee to pursue investigations. He cautioned the Parliament committee to be careful to ensure that officials receiving bribes, and so are corrupt, are meted out punishment.



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Managing Director,
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Deadlock

(Continued from page 1)

joint session and take our chances," he said.

The amendments in question relate to political parties' "immunity" against arbitrary measures by the government, a ban on political activities in school and imposition penalties.

The amendments as proposed by the Senate will include "government and private sector educational institutions" in the article which, as passed by the Lower House, bans political activities only from "government facilities and buildings."

The main objective of this amendment, according to senators, is ensuring that teachers do not use classrooms to propagate political views.

Deputy Prime Minister Thouran Hindawi, who is also minister of education, explained to the Senate Thursday that there was no need to include such a provision in the draft legislation since there are built-in measures within the laws of the Ministry of Education.

The Senate is also proposing that the phrase "within the governs of the law" be added to the article offering immunity against government searches and seizures of party offices as well as wiretapping.

The proposed provision could be interpreted both as ensuring that political parties remain within the reaches of the law and as seeking to preempt arbitrary government moves against them.

The proposal, inspired by former security chiefs, is redundant, according to the senior government official.

"No-one is above the law as firmly stipulated in our Constitution and this includes political parties," the official noted. "On the other hand, the government is not going to take any action against anyone without the proper legal procedure and the support of the law. Here again, everyone is included."

The third point of disagreement between the two houses is a Senate amendment to the article which sets penalties for violators independent of the criminal law of the land. The Upper House wants to add "and/or the punishment prescribed in the penal code whichever is harsher" to the clause in question.

The relevant article, in its present form, sets a fine of JD 2,000 and/or a jail sentence of up to two years for office-bearers of any party who are found to have received funding from external sources. This is the harshest within the confines of the draft law, but the penal code provides for higher fines and longer prison terms.

"The other amendments are minor and relate to the language of the draft and have no implications," said Omar Nabulsi, a leading lawyer and member of the Senate's Law Committee.

"We are discussing the explanatory memorandum" that would be sent to the Lower House, he told the Jordan Times. The memo will be formally presented to the full Senate before being sent to the Lower House.

Mr. Nabulsi, a former minister, said the possibility remained open that "contacts" between the law committees of the two houses could produce a compromise, but if agreement was elusive then a joint session was the answer.

The senior government official said he expected one joint session to resolve the issue since, judging from Thursday's Senate meeting, the debate on the floor could be brief and limited to the points of conflict.

Israel, Lebanon invited to talks

(Continued from page 1)

also wrecked, the security sources said.

Nepalese troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are stationed in Yater but no casualties were reported among the peacekeepers.

Earlier on Thursday, Israeli warplanes launched three air strikes on Hizbollah positions at the village of Mitla in the Iqlim Al Toufah area, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

The latest raid was the 25th Israeli air attack on Hizbollah and Palestinian targets in South Lebanon this year. More than 40 people have been killed in the attacks.

'Israel passed U.S. intelligence to Moscow'

(Continued from page 4)

With the help of its supporters in Congress, it mounted an intense campaign to deny Iraq missiles and other weapons technology.

In February 1991 senior Israeli intelligence officials took responsibility for the March 1990 assassination of Gerald Bull, who was designing a "super-gun" capable of reaching Israel. He was shot in the head outside his Brussels apartment.

Last fall, the London magazine Private Eye reported that in 1986 Israel had authorised payment of \$1.5 million to then CIA deputy director Robert Gates in an effort to get the CIA to stop aiding Iraq. The money, in two checks, came through the National Westminster Bank, the Discount Bank in Israel, and the bank's representative in the Cayman Islands.

Easy as it is to win libel actions in Britain, no one has sued the Private Eye, noted reporter Yigal Laviv in an interview last fall. Mr. Laviv said his paper, Hadashot, had repeated the story on its front page and no one had come forward to deny it.

In March 1992, the Los Angeles Times quoted administration documents to show that Mr. Gates and other administration officials had lied when they said intelligence sharing with Iraq had ended in 1988; it actually continued until three months before Iraq invaded Kuwait, the paper said.

While engrossed in their secret demarches, the Reagan and Bush administrations were concealing their aid to Iraq and vociferously condemning Syria and Iran.

It was an arrogant, cynical performance. But it may not have been entirely mindless. Partner Israel had developed an integral system of stealth diplomacy and made no bones about relying on its intelligence agency Mossad and a phalanx of "cutouts" (ostensibly private businessmen whose real business is to act as arms dealers for the government) to conduct foreign policy in the many countries with which it did not have diplomatic relations.

"Diplomatic stealth finds increasing respect and popularity among individual professionals directly engaged in the planning and operational aspects of foreign policy," noted Aharon Klieman, an Israeli who wrote a book on Israel's arms sales abroad and then wrote a tract, Statecraft in the Dark, exploring the merits of "quiet diplomacy." Mr. Klieman offered the beguiling concept that secret diplomacy is essential to "the ability of democracies like

the United States to fulfill their role abroad."

Speaking of the Reagan administration's concealment of its arms deals with Iran, Mr. Klieman wrote: "Practitioners of the art are notorious for expending

tremendous resources as well as ingenuity in devising clever ruses and subterfuges ... to cover their tracks both literally and figuratively. Such concealment efforts are directed as much against one's own public as against external enemies."

Such a deceit strikes at the heart of an electoral democracy, whose voters must have the information they need to make reasoned choices. But, far from any signs of remorse, the arro-

gance just went on and on. Indeed, when the two nations' intelligence agencies got into the act, the disconnect between what was said and what was done became more egregious — and more imbued with criminality.

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OLYMPIC GAMES ROUNDUP

Ben Johnson returns, South Korean sets archery record

BARCELONA (AP) — Ben Johnson, disgraced in a notorious drug scandal four years ago, returned to the Olympics Friday and easily qualified in his first

round 100 metre dash. In other events, memories of his father, who died during the opening ceremony, buoyed U.S. swimmer Ron Karnaugh through

qualifying in the men's 200 metre individual medley.

And a South Korean woman gained an archery world record, while the tennis tournament lost its fifth seeded player, Germany's Michael Stich.

Johnson was stripped of his world record and gold medal at the 1988 games. On Friday, he was greeted with loud cheers and a few derisive whistles before hitting the track.

His explosive start intact, the Jamaica born Canadian built an early lead and finished second in a relaxed 10.55 seconds. Davidson Ezimwa of Nigeria won in 10.31.

Other contenders for the 100 title, including U.S. sprinters Leroy Burrell, Dennis Mitchell and Mark Witherspoon, easily qualified for the second round.

In the women's 100, five-time Olympian Evelyn Ashford eased into the second round. So did U.S. teammates Gwen Torrence and Gail Devers and other favorites like Merlene Ottey of Jamaica and Irina Privalova of the Unified Team of former Soviet athletes.

In the men's shot put, gold medal favourite Werner Gunthor of Switzerland advanced easily. Jim Boehring of the United States, who got a drug suspension overturned last March to compete in Barcelona, had the best qualifying result with a throw of 20.53 metres (67 feet 4 1/4 inches).

Shadows of 1988 haunted the Olympics on the eve of Friday's start in track and field with the announcement that British sprinter Jason Livingston, a fan of

Johnson's tested positive for steroids.

Livingston was sent home by team officials after failing a random drug test two weeks ago.

Cho Youn-Jeons of South Korea set a world record in 70-metre archery competition Friday, helping her team set an Olympic record in the qualifying round.

Cho scored 338 points from 70 metres and added an Olympic-record score of 345 points from 60 metres. Korea scored 2,024 points in the two rounds.

In Tennis, Germany's Carl Uwe Steed upset compatriot Michael Stich, seeded eighth in the 64 player tournament, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Karnaugh fulfilled his late father's wishes by advancing to the final of the 200-metre individual medley.

His father, Peter Karnaugh, 60, died of a heart attack he suffered in the stands during last Saturday's opening ceremonies.

Jani Sievinen of Finland was the fastest qualifier at 2 minutes, 1.18 seconds. Karnaugh, the world's top-ranked individual medley performer this year, had the fourth best time.

Susan O'Neill of Australia led qualifiers for the women's 200 butterfly final with a time of 2:10.47, just ahead of Summer Sanders of the United States who will try to get her fourth medal in the final.

U.S. swimmers won three of Thursday's six gold medals and were close seconds in the other three. They topped their Olympic medal haul of 1988.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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HOW TO WIN AT DUPLICATES

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K 9 5
♥ J 7 2
♦ A Q 10 7 6 5 3
♣ A Q J 4

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 3 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10
♥ 10 8 3
♦ A K Q J 10 7 5
♣ K

The bidding: North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

In a duplicate pair event each hand is a mini-tournament of its own.

You strive for the best score on that board without any relation to what has preceded or what is still to come.

Victory is sometimes achieved in strange ways, as this hand from a secondary event at a recent National Championship testifies.

North rightly judged the hand too strong for preemptive action, but we wouldn't have quibbled too strongly

with a one-club opening bid. For some reason South thought there might be a slam in the hand and tried a four-spade cue-bid. North thought the bid was natural, showing a good hand with 6-4 distribution, and elected to play in the Moyian 4-3 fit. The usual contract was three no trump, making exactly nine tricks after a heart lead for a score of 800.

When the opponents bid two suits and settle in a third, a trump lead is often indicated. Had West attacked with either major, declarer would have had no play for the contract.

The club lead settled the matter in a hurry.

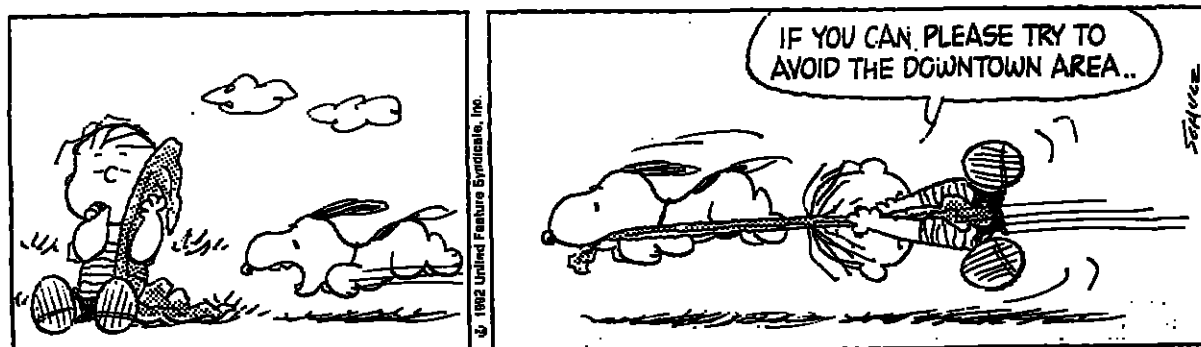
Declarer won in hand, cashed three diamonds for three heart diamonds and ruffed a heart in dummy.

After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer led another club from dummy and, when East could not ruff with the ten, South was able to ruff with the ten.

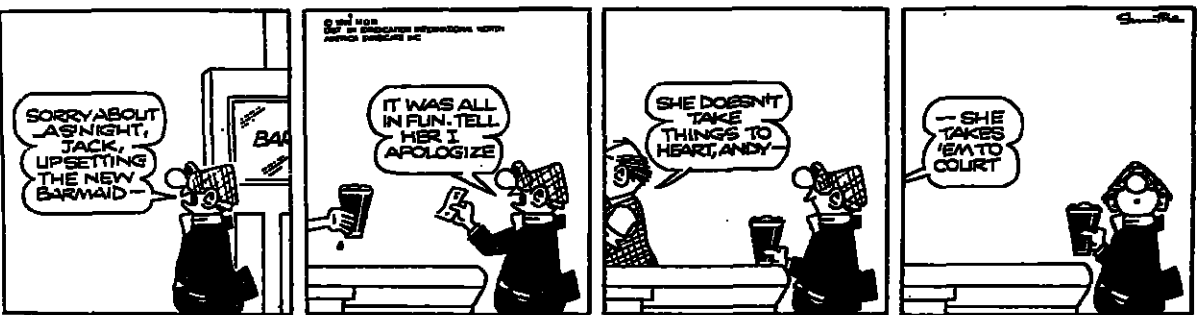
Two more heart ruffs on the board and a club ruff with the ace of trumps brought declarer's trick total to 10—three diamonds, two clubs and five ruffs. That scored 820, for an absolute top on the board.

Include us among the staunch supporters of the possibilities of a 4-3 fit. But don't expect us now to start advocating 3-2 fits!

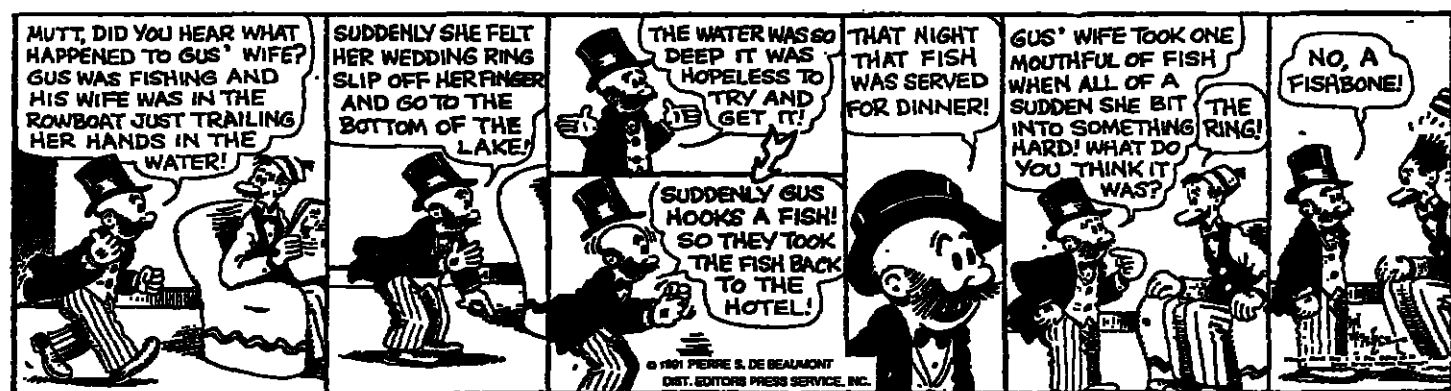
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Visiting basketball teams win 4 out of 6 matches against local opponents

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The visiting basketball teams of Lebanon's Homentmen and the Unified Team of Al Amal Al Catholic of Bethlehem and Sariyet Ramallah have so far out-rivaled their Jordanian opponents, winning four of six matches they played so far against Homentmen Amman, Al Orthodox, Al Ahli and Al Jazireh.

Homentmen Lebanon's women's scored a convincing victory of 78-50 over Al Orthodox and Homentmen Amman 56-16 while their men's team beat their host, Homentmen Amman, 77-44 and lost to Al Orthodox 89-63.

The Unified Women's Team from the occupied Arab territories, hosted by Al Jazireh, beat Al Ahli 37-26 and lost to Al Jazireh 55-53.

An interesting and competitive match was the women's match of Homentmen and Al Orthodox played at the latter's court with over 200 fans attending.

Homentmen's players clearly dominated from the outset of the match leading 13-3 and 21-9 with Aline Chalian and Vivian Sarkisian scoring most. Four consecutive points by Al Orthodox's Lara Al Masri narrowed the gap to 30-24 with five minutes remaining. However effective rebounding by Homentmen's Vartog Markarian and a series of fast breaks enabled Homentmen to win the first half 38-34.

Al Orthodox again tried to catch-up in the second half depending mainly on Rania Abu Hijleh and Lara Al Masri who scored and assisted superbly. However, Homentmen seemed determined to widen the gap as Gassig Khacharian and Taline Papazian scored to build a commanding lead of 61-41 with eight minutes remaining. The visiting team went on to lead 68-49 and won the match 78-50.

Al Orthodox's superior teamwork and agility enabled them to win the men's match against Homentmen 89-63.

Al Orthodox led 15-6 and continued to lead throughout the match as Jihad Saliba, and Ziyad Al Nabulsi led their team to win the first half 39-26. Homentmen Lebanon played a faster attacking game in the second half depending on a tighter defence and fast breaks to score by Khajag Baghdadian and Levon Sermejian. Al Orthodox's Jan Sahliyah and Homentmen's Vicken Eskijian captivated fans with a good number of slam dunks.

Al Orthodox had a commanding lead of 60-38 Homentmen Lebanon caught up to lessen the gap at 66-48, however Al Orthodox went to win the match 89-63.

The visiting Unified Women's Team beat Al Ahli 37-26 and lost to Al Jazireh 55-53.

The Unified Team, considered a top women's team is visiting Jordan for the first time and tops the women's championships in the occupied Arab territories.

Homentmen Lebanon's women's team has won the Lebanese Championship 1956-1975 when the last official League Championship was interrupted by the civil war. They lost the title only once in 1968.

Head of the Unified Team Sami Sayeh said he was pleased by the results so far and hoped his team will do better in the remaining matches.

"We didn't play well against Al Jazireh while our opponents were well-prepared and won the match."

However, we had the advantage in our match against Al Ahli and played a better game to lead throughout the match," Mr. Sayeh told the Jordan Times.

In a statement to the Jordan Times Homentmen Lebanon's head coach Hagop Khacharian said his team ought to have scored more against Al Orthodox (in the women's match): "I expected a bigger difference but because they caught up towards the end of the first half we could not build a bigger lead."

"However considering that we were missing one of our essential players I think all went well."

The visiting teams still have matches to play Saturday. Lebanon's Homentmen play Al Jazireh Sunday. Meanwhile the Unified women's team play Al Orthodox Sunday.

Gutsu just beats Miller to all-round gymnastics gold

BARCELONA (R) — Tatyana Gutsu grabbed the women's all-round gymnastics Olympic gold medal from the hands of American Shannon Miller at the last minute Thursday.

It was the third gymnastics gold in as many days for the Commonwealth of Independent States. The event had been expected to be another showdown between big rivals Svetlana Boginskaya of the CIS and world all-round champion Kim Zmeskal of the United States.

But both missed out on medals. Boginskaya was fifth and Zmeskal, who made a terrible and costly mistake on the floor, finished only 10th.

Romania's Lavinia Milosovici just edged out team mate Cristina Bontas for the bronze.

Miller, who beat the better-known Zmeskal in the U.S. Olympic trials, had looked sure to become the first American

female gymnastics champion in a boycott-free Olympics when she pulled off two super vaults, taking 9.975 for the first one.

She left Gutsu, competing in the same group, needing more than 9.938 to win and Boginskaya, who had been third after the third of the four apparatus rotations, needing a huge 9.965.

The 15-year-old Gutsu, who will compete for Ukraine after these games, was third from last to go in the vault and scored 9.950 on her second jump, bumping Miller into silver medal position.

With only the 19-year-old Boginskaya still in the running, all eyes were turned on the former world all-round champion as she took to the beam.

But a slight wobble proved expensive and the elegant Belarusian earned only 9.912.

Zmeskal, who fell from the beam during the team event Sunday, had another miserable night. She overstepped the marked area as she landed from her final pass in the floor routine.

It was a terrible mistake for someone of Zmeskal's calibre and cost her a penalty of 0.10 points. The same routine had won her a gold medal at this year's World Championships in Paris.

The night also spelled disappointment for Zmeskal's coach Bela Karolyi, the man who took both Romanian Nadia Comaneci and American Mary Lou Retton to previous Olympic triumphs. Miller is one of the few top Americans the Romanian defector does not coach.

Gutsu, who stood proudly to the Ukrainian national anthem after receiving her medal, beat Miller, 15, by 39.737 points to 39.725.

Gutsu, like Boginskaya, helped the CIS to win team gold earlier this week and the old Soviet Union to win the world title last year.

Apart from her vault mark, the Ukrainian, who won two silver medals in Paris, also had a 9.950 on the asymmetric bars where former Soviet star Nelli Kim — who won five Olympic golds in 1976 and 1980 — was among the judges.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Start early today to clean up the debris and you will soon have everything around you in working order if you follow your intuition which is very active, powerful and right on.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find that some dispute over an account can have some harsh repercussions unless you make up your mind to look at this from an objective stance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your moment to refrain from making any personal demands on others no matter how much you feel you have the right and are in a position to do so.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A secret worry could cause you to act as you otherwise would not and get one of whom you are fond to be upset by your apparent irritation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a friend with whom you may be justifiably annoyed but if you show it there could be a possible estrangement but talking calmly easily brings accord.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your position in the outside world can be threatened if you are in anyway contentious in some public or worldly interest so maintain your poise.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look for some way to pacify one of different views from yours

who feels that nothing is working out as anticipated and make a staunch ally.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) An obligation you feel that is more than you had anticipated can put you in a tizzy if you allow but studying and working out in a business-like fashion brings right results.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look for the various ways to placate an irate associate who is angered and who needs to have a common sense attitude shown to lessen anger.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your labour activities now seem to be at sixes and sevens and it is advisable you do not allow these to shatter your cool and you make out just fine.

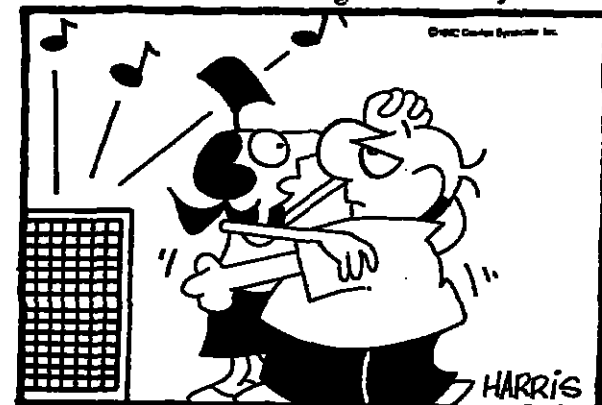
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to have a good time today at all cost and it would be an expensive day if you go off on a tangent so seek inexpensive pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) It is most advisable that you keep your temper and moods under control at your home today no matter what the provocation happens to be.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do to avoid some accident on the highway or while in motion for danger can lurk around the corner but, all ok if you use care.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I'm not saying you're dull, Stanley...but who else would slow-dance to 'Great Balls of Fire'?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME! by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INJOT

ERMIN

FLICEA

RUBBUS



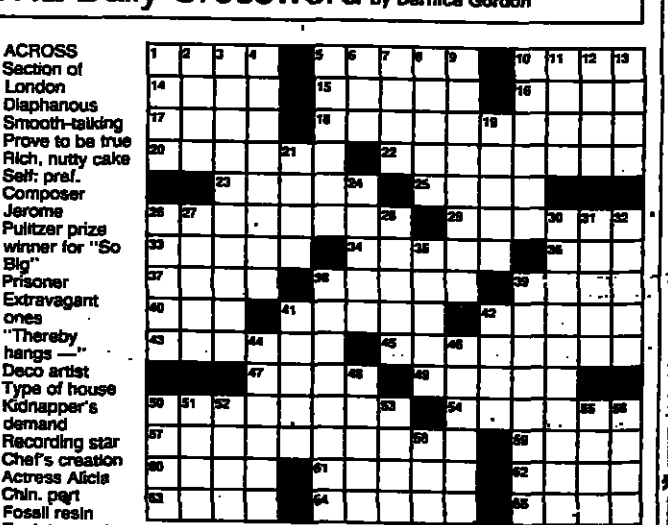
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: DROOP COACH BLEACH RECTOR

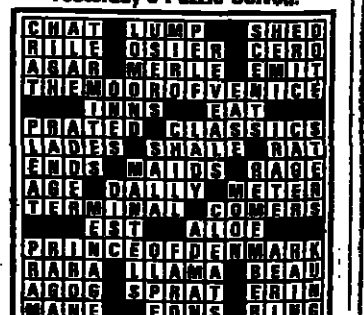
Answer: What the bird was looking for when he flew over all those fish—A "PERCH"

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



For those who wish to take part in Prince Mohammad's Open Chess Championship

The Royal Jordanian Chess Federation
Organizes

from 20th to 24th August, 1992

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B) Prince Mohammad's Chess Championship for Boys Under 16, (born 1976 and after).
C) Prince Mohammad's Chess Championship for Girls and Women, (any age).

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Sight of Play

Abbasiyeh Hall, Main Restaurant, University of Jordan, Amman.

System of Play

9- Round Swiss System, one hour chess; two hours for each round; (1 hour per player).

Schedule of Play

Thursday 20.8.92 Round 1 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Round 2 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday 21.8.92 Round 3 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Round 4 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday 22.8.92 Round 5 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Round 6 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday 23.8.92 Round 7 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Round 8 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Monday 24.8.92 Round 9 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Closing Ceremony & Prizegivings 6:30 pm.

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Plus Cash Prizes

	Men & Juniors Over 16	Boys Under 16	Girls & Women
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2nd	JD 275	70	70
3rd	JD 250	60	60
4th	JD 225	50	50
5th	JD 200	40	40
6th	JD 175		
7th	JD 150		
8th	JD 125		
9th	JD 100		
10th	JD 75		

Entry Fees

JD 10 for Men and Juniors Over 16;
JD 5 for Boys Under 16 years;
JD 5 for Girls and Women.
Fees should be paid at the Royal Jordan Chess club, not later than 15/8/1992
Jabal Amman - 4th Circle Tel. 674713

Prince Mohammad's Chess Championship "ENTRY FORM"

Name: _____
Year of Birth: _____ Sex (M/F) _____
Nationality: _____
ELO Rating Number: _____
(if available)
Address: _____
Tel: _____
Signature: _____

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Please detach the slip and send it to the Royal Jordan Chess Federation

Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 29/7/92	TOKYO 30/7/92
Sterling Pound	1.9215	1.9134
Deutsche Mark	1.4815	1.4860
Swiss Franc	1.3780	1.3776
French Franc	5.0010	5.0210
Japanese Yen	127.82	127.77
European Currency Unit	1.3765	1.3759

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Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.32	5.46	5.75
Sterling Pound	10.12	10.12	10.18	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.37	8.43	8.43	8.37
French Franc	10.09	10.25	10.25	10.25
Japanese Yen	4.06	4.00	5.81	5.81
European Currency Unit	10.93	10.93	10.95	10.75

Commodity	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	356.85	6.75	5.92
Silver			

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	0.669	0.671
Sterling Pound	1.2837	1.2901
Deutsche Mark	0.4587	0.4530
Swiss Franc	0.5056	0.5081
French Franc	0.1335	0.1342
Japanese Yen	0.5234	0.5260
Dutch Guilder	0.3996	0.4016
Swedish Krona	0.1242	0.1246
Italian Lira	0.0596	0.0599
Belgian Franc	0.02192	0.02203

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	1.7460	1.7560
U.S. Dollar	0.03150	0.03350
U.S. Dollar	0.1780	0.1795
U.S. Dollar	2.2500	2.3400
U.S. Dollar	0.1815	0.1825
U.S. Dollar	0.2100	0.2150
U.S. Dollar	1.2080	1.2100
U.S. Dollar	0.1815	0.1825
U.S. Dollar	0.5670	0.5670
U.S. Dollar	1.5565	1.5765

CEN Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	29/7/92	Close	28/7/92	Close
All-Share	139.79		140.00	
Banking Sector	101.84		102.07	
Insurance Sector	150.97		149.98	
Industry Sector	192.54		192.88	
Services Sector	179.16		179.14	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9175/85	U.S. dollars	1.1819/24
One U.S. dollar	1.4800/10	Canadian dollar	1.6683/93
	1.3132	Deutsche mark	30.44/48
	30.44/48	Dutch guilder	5.0000/50
	5.0000/50	Swiss franc	1118/1119
	1118/1119	Belgian franc	127.33/38
	127.33/38	French franc	5.3775/3825
	5.3775/3825	Italian lire	5.8215/65
	5.8215/65	Japanese yen	5.6975/7025
	5.6975/7025	Swedish crown	337.50/358.00
	337.50/358.00	Norwegian crown	
		Danish crown	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKETS
BANKING SECTOR CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (25/07/1992 - 29/07/1992)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	11,908	2.750	2.740	2.770
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	24,976	1.850	1.850	1.870
THE JORDAN BANK	9,987	2.500	2.500	2.500
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,300	2.400	2.300	2.300
INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	8,215	2.000	1.950	2.000
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	3,375	2.250	2.250	2.250
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,011	2.000	1.950	1.950
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	70,735	2.750	2.800	2.800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	85,556	2.150	2.150	2.150
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	85,247	1.150	1.140	1.140
ARAB TRUST INVESTMENT	16,008	1.000	1.070	1.090
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	261,714	1.150	1.050	1.150
WEST BANK INVESTMENT FOR JORDAN	1,384,561	1.120	1.070	1.070
STATE OF JORDAN	2,822	14.250	14.250	14.250
ARAB BANK	126,230	114.250	114.000	112.000
JORDAN INSURANCE	2,750	2.740	2.750	2.750
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	741	2.840	2.850	2.850
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	3,437	2.450	2.450	2.460
JORDAN MARINE INSURANCE	1,634	2.900	2.900	2.900
JORDAN MARINE & REINSURANCE	2,650	2.450	2.450	2.450
JORDAN REINSURANCE	1,450	1.450	1.450	1.450
JORDAN REINSURANCE	26,477	1.300	1.370	1.350
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	97	1.850	1.940	1.940
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	348	2.300	2.320	2.320
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	11,575	1.800	1.810	1.790
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	23,846	1.250	1.260	1.260
ARAB TELECOMMUNICATIONS	24,500	4.010	4.000	4.040
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	308,160	1.320	1.320	1.340
DESID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	730	0.700	0.730	0.730
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	961	5.400	5.400	5.400
UNITED NATIONS & COMPANY	742,145	1.000	1.070	1.070
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	1,020	0.270	0.260	0.270
RESEARCH & SERVICE & MAINTENANCE	19,210	0.020	0.020	0.020
PEPSA ENTERPRISES & INDUSTRIES LEASING	23,529	0.050	0.040	0.040
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	171,243	0.720	0.700	0.690
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	103,754	1.500	1.470	1.500
JORDAN BANK	132,703	2.400	2.450	2.510
THE PUBLIC TRADING	4,320	2.400	2.400	2.400
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	258,871	7.750	7.750	7.750
ARAB FARMACUTICAL MANUFACTURING	122,460	0.850	0.850	0.850
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	99,542	0.880	0.850	0.800
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	78,438	22.150	21.950	22.250
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	313,512	6.440	6.410	6.460
THE AL BANO DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	39,526	6.700	6.700	6.650
INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRIES	29,320	2.470	2.460	2.480
THE JORDAN WOODS KILLS	29,476	6.900	6.910	6.900
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	27,340	4.740	4.700	4.640
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	20,823	0.770	0.760	0.750
JORDAN PAPER & CARBON FACTORIES	3,200	5.200	5.000	5.000
JORDAN PROSPERITY	4,163	3.500	3.500	3.480
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	2,566	2.420	2.520	2.520
ARAB CENTER FOR FOOD & CHEMICALS	1,024,175	0.550	0.550	0.550
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	20,829	0.550	0.570	0.590
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,121	4.160	4.100	4.150
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	150,140	13.600	13.400	13.500
ALADON INDUSTRIES	5,700	3.800	3.800	3.800
ARAB INDUSTRIES	16,598	3.250	3.250	3.250
WOLAN INDUSTRIES	7,036	1.500	1.500	1.440
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	16,310	1.100	1.130	1.110
SPINNING & WEAVING	75,585	3.100	3.090	3.090
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JINCO	12,878	2.400	2.550	2.530
NATIONAL CARBON & JUNE MANUFACTURING	197,677	6.650	6.650	6.500
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	177,404	3.540	3.520	3.620
THE JORDAN CHEMICAL FACTORIES	157,143	1.250	1.260	1.250
JORDAN SOYBEAN INDUSTRIES	2,143	1.770	1.770	1.730
JORDAN PACKAGING & PACKING	944	5.000	4.900	4.900
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	65,479	0.400	0.500	0.590
UNIVERSAL FOODS INDUSTRIES	819,148	5.140	5.110	5.120
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	754,939	2.130	2.080	2.170
JORDAN TOURISM & CEMENTS	798	21.000	21.000	21.000
JORDAN TOURISM & CEMENTS	62,138	8.450	8.430	8.560
GRAND TOTAL	2,946,659			

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S. Arabia's largest bank remains on solid ground despite scandal

By Youssef Azmeh
Renter

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia's largest bank may appear to be in trouble but bankers and its own officials believe it will weather the storm of its alleged involvement in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) scandal.

The National Commercial Bank (NCB), which has by far the biggest assets and largest branch network in the oil-rich kingdom, was shocked when U.S. Federal Reserve Board said on July 8 it was starting legal proceedings against it and its former chief operating officer, Khaled Bin Mahfouz.

NCB's New York branch, its only one abroad, was given 30 days to close down for, among other things, failing to provide complete financial information on its consolidated operations.

Bankers in Saudi Arabia said the giant, though hurt by the U.S. move which lost it some credit-

ity among foreign bankers and a minority of its depositors, was largely unaffected.

"It may look like an elephant in trouble but it does not stand on quicksand," one banker said.

"It stands on the solid ground of a huge depositor base. It is also the principal banker of the Saudi Royal Family and will not be allowed to buckle under," he added.

Bankers in Saudi Arabia were unanimous in saying country's powerful and wealthy central bank, The Saudi Monetary Authority (SAMA), would not allow an NCB collapse.

"The Bank is too big and too important. SAMA has got a good reputation for managing such crises," one banker said.

Mahfouz's alleged involvement with the troubled BCCI, which has closed down in year ago, focused attention on NCB's own failure to publish audited results since 1989.

Unusual in being a private

partnership and not a quoted limited liability company like most other big banks, it suffered the indignity last month of having its credit rating withdrawn by the only body that rates Middle East borrowers.

Bankers said NCB's problems led to some loss of business in the past few weeks but this left hardly a dent in assets, said by the bank to have totalled \$2.3 billion Saudi riyals at the end of last year.

A source at the bank, who declined to be named, put present liquidity at about 6 billion, some 30 per cent of total deposits of 75.6 billion riyals at end 1991.

The unaudited 1991 figures show that the bank's business has not kept up with the extraordinary growth of the Saudi banking sector in the past three years.

While deposits and assets at most other Saudi banks have grown sometimes by up to 50 per cent, NCB's total deposits are down compared with 80 billion riyals at the end of 1989. Assets

are also down from 86.6 billion riyals in that year.

But NCB continues to account for about 30 per cent of total bank assets in the kingdom. Excluding NCB these were put at 188 billion riyals at the end of June.

Saudis questioned in the past week tended to emotionally dismiss the fears about an NCB collapse. They attribute NCB's troubles largely to politicking and anti-Arab bias in the United States in this election year.

Khaled Bin Mahfouz has resigned from the bank in which his father is the majority shareholder, handing operations to his brother.

Mahfouz says he will focus energy on vigorously defending his reputation against allegations that he misled BCCI depositors by disguising his sale of a major stake months before the collapse of the bank largely owned by the ruling Al-Nahayan family of Abu Dhabi.

Clifford says he is victim of fraud Russia to import more grain

WASHINGTON (R) — Vowing to fight to restore his tarnished image, Former U.S. Defence Secretary Clark Clifford said on Thursday that he and his law partner Robert Altman were victims of fraud by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Denying state and federal allegations that he and Altman were co-conspirators in the scandal, the 85-year-old Clifford told a news conference they were deceived by BCCI and declared in an impassioned voice:

"I am spending the rest of my life to get my good name restored. I know (the charges) to be false and I am going to fight them every step of the way."

The former Washington powerbroker who was an adviser to several presidents is suffering from coronary disease and doctors have told him he may not live long, Carl Rauh, attorney for Clifford and Altman, said.

Clifford and Altman were indicted on Wednesday on state and federal charges that they accepted bribes and lied to banking regulators to hide BCCI's illegal ownership of First American Bankshares, Inc., Washington's largest bank.

Clifford was chairman of First

American and Altman served as its president. Both men resigned their positions under pressure from the Federal Reserve Central Bank after regulators learned of scandal-plagued BCCI's secret ownership of the bank, which had branches in several states including New York.

Clifford and Altman said prosecutors have no direct or credible evidence of wrongdoing on their part and said the prosecutions were politically motivated. "The New York district Attorney's office appears dedicated to preserving its public posture as the undisputed leader in the fight against BCCI corruption, while the Justice Department, smarting from earlier criticisms, particularly in this election year, tries hard not to be outdone," the two said in a joint statement.

The Justice Department has been criticised by members of Congress for dragging its feet in the BCCI investigation.

BCCI branches worldwide were shut down by regulators last year after charges of widespread fraud.

Clifford and Altman are accused of lying to banking regulators during the 1982 takeover of First American, which was then

called Financial General Bankshares, by a group of Middle Eastern investors.

At the time, they told regulators that BCCI was not financing the deal and would have no control over the shares of First American's parent, Credit and Commerce American Holdings. Since then regulators discovered that BCCI financed some of the stock purchases and accused some of the investors of acting as frontmen for the Luxembourg-based bank.

Clifford said he was unaware of any secret deals between BCCI and the investors and that he had thought BCCI's founder, Pakistani businessman Agha Hasan Abedi, was an honest man. He said he believed BCCI and Abedi were acting as financial advisers to the shareholders.

"I accepted them for what they appeared to be... we were deceived," Clifford said.

Clifford and Altman were charged with taking bribes from the leaders of BCCI in the form of sham loans and stock deals for themselves and fees for their Washington law firm, Clifford Warnke. In return they allegedly helped BCCI management take control of First American.

Russia to import more grain

MOSCOW (R) — Russia may import up to 23 million tonnes of grain this year, Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun said on Thursday.

The forecast, reported by Commonwealth Television, was made during talks in Moscow with visiting Foreign Agriculture Minister Louis Mermaz.

The International Wheat Council (IWC) has put Russian grain imports at 19 million tonnes for the 1992/93 season. The IWC said the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was expected to import 25 million tonnes of wheat and coarse grains in the current season ending in June 1993, down from last season's estimated 36.3 million tonnes.

Russia, the world's biggest grain importer, accounts for the vast majority of purchases abroad.

"During (the) talks, the Russian minister... declared that the republic this year will possibly have to buy up to 23 million tonnes of grain abroad," television said.

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Hostile fire shuts down U.N. radar in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Hostile fire from Bosnian and Serbian positions has forced a United Nations radar battery in Sarajevo to abandon its ceasefire monitoring mission four times in less than two weeks. U.N. sources said Thursday.

The Soviet-made radar unit, manned by four Ukrainians, is intended to identify artillery and mortars fired in violation of the U.N.-monitored Sarajevo ceasefire. The unit is dug in on a hilltop between Bosnian and Serbian lines northwest of the city.

"Our position has been under small arms fire from two directions on several occasions. It has sometimes been impossible to work at night because of the intensity of the fire," said Captain Sergei Mikhailovich Vasyutsev of the Ukrainian army.

The latest shooting took place on the night of July 29-30, which saw some of the heaviest fighting around the besieged city of Sarajevo in many weeks.

U.N. officials said it was not clear whether the radar unit was targeted specifically or whether it was simply in the line of fire.

The radar, which has been operational for just 11 days, calculates the caliber of any missile fired and then uses the trajectory to identify the type of weapon, firing point and point of impact. U.N. officials said it is accurate to within 40 metres.

Sarajevo Airport in Bosnia was closed for several hours Friday when heavy firing in the area drove United Nations forces to take shelter in bunkers, a U.N. official in Geneva said.

"A French aircraft was on the ground and had to make an emergency take-off after dumping its load," Ron Redmond, spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told Reuters.

"No-one was injured, but our reports say it was very heavy for a time," he added. He said an American transport already in the air with relief supplies for Sarajevo's besieged population of some 380,000 had to be diverted.

Mr. Redmond said the shooting began at about 7.30 p.m. Sarajevo time (0430 GMT) and was continuing four hours later.

Four flights, part of a month-long airlift to the city mounted by the UNHCR involving 18 countries, had landed before traffic was suspended, he added.

Since the airlift began on July 3, the airport has been closed several times.

For nearly four months Sarajevo has been under attack with artillery and mortar fire by Serb forces. The Serbs hold hills around the city and oppose a declaration of independence by the former Yugoslav republic's Muslim Slav and Croat majority.

Meanwhile, international bodies discussed using military force to protect refugee relief efforts for Bosnia as fresh battles shook Sarajevo and other parts of the former Yugoslav republic Thursday.

Countries bearing the brunt of the refugee crisis backed the creation of safe havens for people who have fled four months of fighting.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said after a meeting in Geneva that the scheme would be put to the U.N. New York headquarters where providing military protection for the havens would have to be approved by the Security Council.

Officials of the Western European Union (WEU) met in Rome to draw up contingency plans to send troops to protect aid convoys which have been harassed in Bosnia by gunmen.

More than two million refugees have fled their homes since Yugoslavia began to disintegrate more than a year ago.

Most have come from Bosnia where the rebel Serb minority controls about 70 per cent of the country and has held the capital of Sarajevo under siege since April.

At least four people were killed and more than 80 were wounded in a fierce mortar bombardment of Serb and Croat areas of Sarajevo during the night.

U.N. peacekeepers said the barrage, which followed an inconclusive round of peace talks mediated by the European Community in London Wednesday, was the most intense for two months.

Residents in Stup, a mixed Serb and Croat quarter in the besieged Bosnian capital, blamed Muslim gunmen for the attacks which lasted into the early hours of Thursday.

Mr. Amato, who visited the United States and West Europe, told reporters he had convinced leaders there that Yugoslavia had no designs on the territory of former republics and that it was opposed to the "ethnic cleansing" of refugees.

In Hungary, his last stop before returning to Belgrade, he suggested holding a conference in Budapest of all the former Yugoslav republics to settle their differences.

Mr. Amato, also Yugoslavia's defence minister, told journalists in Budapest he would make proposals to the warring sides in Bosnia to neutralise their heavy weapons.

But Mr. Amato told parliament: "The resignation has not led to any of those situations which throw into jeopardy or discussion the political legitimacy of the government."

"... (It is) the fruit of a personal series of events which are linked to events within the DC, which has confirmed its support for the government," he said.

Mr. Scotti quit in rebellion against the DC leadership's order that all nine DC ministers in Mr. Amato's government should give up their parliamentary seats — the traditional and highly-prized power base of Italian politicians.

Earlier Thursday, Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had made a scathing attack on Mr. Scotti, although he did not mention him by name.

"Yesterday we lived through moments scarcely tolerable for democracy in a country that is suffering from terrible sores in terms of violence, the economy and the image we give Europe and the world," Mr. Scalfaro said.

Speaking in the northern port of Genoa, Mr. Scalfaro added: "We are facing a difficult moment, a terribly difficult moment. It is very grave for anyone in a position of responsibility to forget it even for a moment."

Mr. Amato, who has temporarily taken over the Foreign Ministry, did not say who would succeed Mr. Scotti as foreign minister but said he would not keep the foreign brief for long.

The Italian currency, government bonds and stocks Thursday all paid the price for Mr. Scotti's resignation, weakening on investor fears of further political instability.

Mr. Scotti himself, under fire from all sides for undermining the coalition by quitting, said it was not his action that had weakened the government — but what he called the fossilised leadership of Italy's party system.

"The government is not weak because of some internal problem. It has not been weakened by my gesture ... It is weak because of this situation within the parties," he said, accusing the top politician of being frozen in time.

Italy has recently lost two leading anti-mafia judges in just under a month. Sicilian Judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino were blown up in the island capital Palermo.

But prison doctors, making an initial examination of Honecker, had earlier found him in good health for his age.

Mr. Wolff said his defence team, many of whom were still on holiday, would consider whether to apply for Honecker to be exempted from imprisonment.

A judges' panel would then have to decide whether to let Honecker out of jail until his trial later this year.

But judges might not accept this plea by the defence considering how Mr. Honecker gave justice officials the slip in March 1991 by fleeing Germany from a Red Army camp.

Mr. Honecker could be housed indefinitely in the hospital wing of the grim Moabit Prison, where he was once imprisoned as a young Communist militat by the Nazis.

Mr. Wolff said Mr. Honecker's return to Germany was in breach of international law because he had been hounded out of the Chilean embassy by Russian security agents.

This contradicts German government and Berlin justice officials, who say Honecker left the embassy Wednesday and flew home from Moscow of his own free will.

Mr. Wolff said his client had refused to leave the compound after hearing Wednesday that the Chilean government no longer desired his presence.

Mr. Wolff described Mr. Honecker as "very shaken" by the hearing which effectively condemned his 18-year rule as an inhuman and corrupt dictatorship — just five years after the hardline Communist was received with honours on a state visit to Bonn.



Serbian fighters prepare to storm a house in a Sarajevo suburb

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Italian premier rejects calls to quit

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, trying to save his government's credibility, rejected calls for his resignation in a political crisis which has compounded Italy's criminal and economic emergency.

Mr. Amato addressed the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) after Foreign Minister Vincenzo Scotti unexpectedly resigned Wednesday, sparking fears of further instability for his fragile, four-party coalition.

Opposition parties have called for Mr. Amato, whose month-old government commands only a razor-thin, 16-seat majority in the chamber, to resign after the Christian Democrat (DC) Scotti quit over a party row.

But Mr. Amato told parliament: "The resignation has not led to any of those situations which throw into jeopardy or discussion the political legitimacy of the government."

"... (It is) the fruit of a personal series of events which are linked to events within the DC, which has confirmed its support for the government," he said.

Mr. Scotti quit in rebellion against the DC leadership's order that all nine DC ministers in Mr. Amato's government should give up their parliamentary seats — the traditional and highly-prized power base of Italian politicians.

Earlier Thursday, Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had made a scathing attack on Mr. Scotti, although he did not mention him by name.

"Yesterday we lived through moments scarcely tolerable for democracy in a country that is suffering from terrible sores in terms of violence, the economy and the image we give Europe and the world," Mr. Scalfaro said.

Speaking in the northern port of Genoa, Mr. Scalfaro added: "We are facing a difficult moment, a terribly difficult moment. It is very grave for anyone in a position of responsibility to forget it even for a moment."

Mr. Amato, who has temporarily taken over the Foreign Ministry, did not say who would succeed Mr. Scotti as foreign minister but said he would not keep the foreign brief for long.

The Italian currency, government bonds and stocks Thursday all paid the price for Mr. Scotti's resignation, weakening on investor fears of further political instability.

Mr. Scotti himself, under fire from all sides for undermining the coalition by quitting, said it was not his action that had weakened the government — but what he called the fossilised leadership of Italy's party system.

"The government is not weak because of some internal problem. It has not been weakened by my gesture ... It is weak because of this situation within the parties," he said, accusing the top politician of being frozen in time.

Italy has recently lost two leading anti-mafia judges in just under a month. Sicilian Judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino were blown up in the island capital Palermo.

But prison doctors, making an initial examination of Honecker, had earlier found him in good health for his age.

Mr. Wolff said his defence team, many of whom were still on holiday, would consider whether to apply for Honecker to be exempted from imprisonment.

A judges' panel would then have to decide whether to let Honecker out of jail until his trial later this year.

But judges might not accept this plea by the defence considering how Mr. Honecker gave justice officials the slip in March 1991 by fleeing Germany from a Red Army camp.

Mr. Honecker could be housed indefinitely in the hospital wing of the grim Moabit Prison, where he was once imprisoned as a young Communist militat by the Nazis.

Mr. Wolff said Mr. Honecker's return to Germany was in breach of international law because he had been hounded out of the Chilean embassy by Russian security agents.

This contradicts German government and Berlin justice officials, who say Honecker left the embassy Wednesday and flew home from Moscow of his own free will.

Mr. Wolff said his client had refused to leave the compound after hearing Wednesday that the Chilean government no longer desired his presence.

U.S., Russia sign accord to destroy chemical arms

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Russia have signed an agreement under which Washington will provide up to \$25 million to Moscow to help destroy Russian chemical weapons.

The agreement implemented some provisions of a wider June 17 deal between President George Bush and Boris Yeltsin to help the Russian Federation safely transport and destroy nuclear, chemical and other former Soviet weapons of mass destruction.

It was signed at the Pentagon by deputy U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Atwood and Russian academician Anatoly Kuntsevich.

The United States will provide \$25 million to help Moscow draw up a plan to destroy its chemical weapons stockpile, develop a safe transport and alarm system for such weapons and train Russian experts in the United States.

"Under terms of this agree-

ment, assistance of up to \$25 million will be provided at no cost to the Russian Federation," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told reporters.

He said the \$25 million brought to \$125 million the total funds already obligated by the United States from a promised pool of \$400 million to help the former U.S. enemy get rid of its chemical arms and drastically reduce its nuclear weapons stockpile.

The money obligated to date would provide covers and containers for nuclear weapons being transported to storage and destruction site in Russia, set up accident response plans and to build technical centres in Russia and the Ukraine to employ former Soviet arms scientists.

The Pentagon stressed that the Russian Federation cannot use the \$400 million approved by Congress for any other purpose than destruction of weapons unless given specific approval by Washington.

Bush would reconsider selling F-16s to Taiwan

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an interview with Texas State Network Radio Stations, President George Bush promised to reconsider his decision to block the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan, according to White House spokesman Judy Smith.

General Dynamics, which makes the plane at a plant in Fort Worth, Texas, announced Wednesday it was laying off 5,000 workers because of the loss of the contract.

Mr. Bush has opposed the fighter sale, prompting Taiwan to

look to the French Mirage fighter as an alternative.

"We really are going to reconsider," Mr. Smith said.

Gov. Ann Richards and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and others criticised the ban of F-16 sales Wednesday after General Dynamics announced the layoffs.

"Of course, we'd like to see this (F-16) line stay open," Mr. Bush said. "We have the same arguments in other states with other defence plants but I have to make this determination."

Bush takes sputtering campaign to key states

WAXAHACHIE, Texas (R) — President George Bush took his sputtering reelection bid to the giant, indispensable states of Texas and California, facing signs of panic and mutiny within his party's ranks.

Mr. Bush, trailing far behind Democratic challenger Bill Clinton in public opinion polls a year after seeming assured of an easy win, visited his adopted home state of Texas to try to rescue an \$8.25 billion high-technology science project whose funding is endangered by Congress.

Mr. Bush, who has seen his popularity sink due to stagnation in the U.S. economy, tried to put the best face on news the recovery was weaker than thought.

The government Thursday reported the economy grew in the second quarter at a lethargic annual rate of 1.4 per cent, below the two per cent predicted by experts.

"Most of the blue-chip economists predict that the economy is going to get stronger the rest of the year, and I believe that they are right," Mr. Bush told workers at the superconducting super-collider plant, a giant atom smasher being built on the Texas prairie near Dallas.

"But we have got to act now to guarantee that," he said.

Later he was to travel to Orange County, California, a

bedrock conservative area, to try to blunt Mr. Clinton's surge in the most populous U.S. state, California, which has been a keystone to Republican successes in recent presidential elections.

California's 54 electoral votes and Texas's 32 are a big chunk of the 270 electoral votes needed for election on Nov. 3.

Pollster Mervin Field said Wednesday that Mr. Clinton has a 62-to-28 per cent lead over Mr. Bush in California and that it seemed the Democrat could lose only by some disastrous scandal revelation.

"California is gone," the Washington Post quoted an unidentified Bush campaign aide as saying.

Mr. Bush's standing in Texas, where he started an oil firm and served as a congressman, seems somewhat stronger.

At a time when the party should be uniting before its national nominating convention next month, Republicans are in an uproar, with some conservatives saying Mr. Bush, or his vice president, Dan Quayle, should step aside.

A prominent conservative Republican from Florida, another state Mr. Bush needs to carry in November, published a full-page advertisement in the Washington Post Thursday that called on Mr. Quayle to drop off the Republican ticket.

Ignoring a posse of reporters, she strode through the lobby of Moscow Airport and boarded a Russian Aeroflot plane for Santiago where her daughter Sonya lives.

Officials first uncovered evidence of forced adoptions in east Germany last year when they found around 250 letters written to Mrs. Honecker by parents complaining about the loss of their children.

Many of the parents were seen as political undesirables because they had either tried to escape to west Germany or had applied to emigrate from the Communist state.

Mrs. Honecker ignored the letters, writing "no reply" on them, or handed them straight to the Stasi security police.

Berlin justice authorities said it was still too early to charge Mrs. Honecker, 63, on allegations of making local bureaucrats declare parents unfit to bring up their children.

"We still have to harden up the case — we aren't that far yet," prosecutor Christoph Schaefer told reporters.

But there were already calls in Germany for her immediate return to face a court.

"Mrs. Honecker shouldn't be handed a freedom ticket to Chile as she belongs behind bars too," said the Junge Union, the youth wing of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats.

COLUMN 8

Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall have separated

LONDON (AP) — Mick Jagger, lead singer of the Rolling Stones rock group, and his second wife, American model Jerry Hall, have separated, the Daily Mail reported. The Friday issue of the London tabloid quoted 34-year-old Ms. Hall as saying: "Yes, it's true we are separated. I suppose we'll divorce. I'm in too much pain for this to go on any longer. I'm hoping for a quieter life," Ms. Hall was quoted as saying. Jagger's spokesman, Bernard Doherty, said he could not confirm or deny the story. But said he could confirm that the interview with Ms. Hall and the Daily Mail took place. Doherty issued a statement from Jagger which read: "My family is very important to me and I care about them very much however they must remain a private affair." The paper reported: "She blames what she believes to be the Rolling Stones' infatuation with beautiful Italian model Carla Bruni, who is 25 years his junior." Jagger, 49, and Ms. Hall, who have been together for 15 years, married on the Indonesian island of Bali in 1990. They have three children — Scarlet Elizabeth aged 8, James aged 6 and Georgia May Ayesha born Jan. 12.

Turkish brokers scratch for a living

ISTANBUL (R) — Brokers at Istanbul Stock Exchange are jumpier than usual, but fleas rather than bulls and bears are moving the market. Women have stopped wearing mini-skirts and men are donning two pairs of socks to foil the tiny tormentors, but the fleas are biting as hard as ever, brokers said. Itchy traders at the Bosphorus waterfront bourse trace the fleas to the crowded trading-room's ageing carpet. Officials said the room was sprayed with insecticide every weekend.

U.S. prices rise for cocaine

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wholesale cocaine prices in four American cities have risen sharply, indicating that enforcement efforts are cutting into the available supply, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said. The agency said data from Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and New York reflected a 30 to 40 per cent increase in wholesale prices during the second quarter of this year. This is only the second time since the late 1970s that significant increases in prices of wholesale lots have occurred, Robert C. Bonner, DEA administrator for drug enforcement, said. "Our strategy is to apply increased and more concentrated efforts against the Colombian cartels and, in particular, the Cali cartel, by U.S. and Colombia enforcement agencies," Mr. Bonner said. "These efforts appear to be forcing wholesale cocaine prices up." The agency said the average price per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cocaine ranged from 12,000 to 18,000 in the first quarter of the year and from 18,000 to 26,000 in the second.

Charles escorts queen mother to flower show

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles spent the morning of his eleventh wedding anniversary Wednesday with another woman, his 91-year-old grandmother, leaving everyone guessing about the whereabouts of his glamorous wife Diana. The heir to Britain's throne and Princess Diana opted for a low-key anniversary of their 1981 marriage, which took place amid a blaze of romantic pomp. The occasion follows a fevered period of press speculation about their relationship prompted by the publication of a biography portraying the princess as a deeply unhappy woman whose "fairy-tale" marriage had long since gone stale. Buckingham Palace, as reserved as ever about matters of the royal realm, said only that the couple would be spending the day privately, having no official duties to carry out. Prince Charles, however, decided to escort the royal matriarch, the queen mother, to a flower show near the estate of Sandringham, giving avid royal watchers another chance to ponder the state of his reportedly rocky marriage. Prince Charles, greeted by approving cheers of "good old Charlie" is said to have bristled with indignation at the suggestion he has been a bad husband to Princess Diana and a poor father to their sons William and Harry.

S. Africa approves U.N. observers

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government Thursday cleared the way for a U.N. observer team to be sent to monitor pro-democracy protests which Pretoria predicts will fuel violence.

South African officials said it was the first time the government had allowed such a mission from the world body, long resented by white governments here for its anti-apartheid sanctions.

"The State President (F.W. de Klerk) has no objection to the presence of impartial and objective observers, representing the (U.N.) secretary-general, for the purpose of observing the proposed mass action campaign," a statement by Foreign Minister Pik Botha said.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has called a general strike for Monday and Tuesday as part of a week of heightened protests aimed at overthrowing white rule.

U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani said around 10 African officials would observe the demonstrations. They were scheduled to leave for South Africa Friday and remain for about two weeks.

U.S. embassy sources said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen was also expected to be in South Africa during the general strike. He was due to hold talks with Mr. De Klerk and other political leaders.

Mr. Mandela Wednesday asked the U.N. to send observers to watch the strikes, marches and demonstrations coordinated with the ANC's Communist Party and labour allies.

A spokeswoman for the group welcomed the U.N.'s decision, saying: "It is a sensible idea. They will see for themselves how peaceful the strike will be."

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told a closed session of the Security Council the request was in response to a letter he wrote to Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk expressing fears over the disruptive effects of the protests.

Dr. Ghali said Mr. Mandela had assured him the protests and strikes would be peaceful and should be watched by monitors from the U.N., Commonwealth and Organisation of African Unity.

U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance ended a 10-day fact-finding mission to South Africa Thursday.

After a farewell meeting with Mr. De Klerk he told reporters he would report to Dr. Ghali next week and his recommendations would be published shortly afterwards.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey, Georgia sign new treaty

MOSCOW (R) — Turkey and Georgia agreed new deals on the economy and the environment, promising to try to curb pollution in the Black Sea and signing a friendship treaty, Interfax News Agency said. The treaty, signed by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and visiting Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel was designed to protect investments and stimulate trade, the agency said. The two countries, which also agreed to set up diplomatic relations, would create a secretariat in Istanbul to investigate ways to tackle Black Sea pollution. Mr. Demirel, quoted by local journalists on arrival at Tbilisi Airport for a one-day visit, promised to help Georgia. "The people of Georgia should not be pessimistic about today's difficulties. Turkey is nearby and able to help," he said.

Another S. African detainee dies

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police said Thursday a suspected murderer had died while in detention, the third such death since a leading doctor claimed at the weekend that police regularly beat their prisoners to death. Police said Ambrose Macakathi was found hanging from a cell window at Soweto's Protea Police Station Thursday morning, two days after being arrested. "Preliminary investigations revealed that his pillow had been torn into shreds which were used in the hanging. No foul play is suspected at this stage," police said. They said police officials had visited Macakathi in the morning and "nothing abnormal was found." He was found dead an hour and a half later. Dr. Jonathan Gluckman, a top forensic pathologist, said in remarks published at the weekend police were to blame for about 90 per cent of the 200 deaths in detention he had investigated. He said he decided to make his findings public after unsuccessful pleas with the government to act.

Plane catches fire at Kennedy Airport

NEW YORK (AP) — A jetliner veered off a runway and caught fire while taking off at Kennedy Airport. All 206 people aboard were evacuated safely, but at least 15 suffered minor injuries, authorities said. Trans World Airlines Flight 843, a three engine Lockheed L1011 headed from New York to San Francisco, was engulfed in flames from the wings to the tail before the fire was extinguished about 50 minutes after it started. Passengers were evacuated from the plane via emergency chutes. Don Fleming, a TWA spokesman, said there was "a successful evacuation" of 274 passengers and 12 crew members. "There are no serious injuries at this point," he said. Fifteen passengers suffered minor injuries, said Lynn Schulman, and emergency medical service spokeswoman.

Seaweed causes Mediterranean alert

NICE, France (R) — French Environment Minister Segolene Royal